

NAURUAN CONSONANT EPENTHESIS: VELAR NASAL INTRUSION

© MARK WILLIAMS
(mark.williams1954@gmail.com)
Manuscript date: 24th January 2023

CONTENTS	
	Page
Contents Table	1 - 4
1. Introduction	5 - 6
2. Current Status of Nauruan	7
3. Phonetics	8 – 10
3.1. Description of consonant phonemes	10 – 11
3.2. Some observations of sound changes during the 20 th Century	11 - 13
4. Orthography	14
4.1. Observations on Kayser's orthographies 1936 and 1976	15 – 16
4.2. Observations on the orthography of the 1918 Bible	16
4.3. Comparative table of Nauruan orthographies	17
5. Abbreviations Used	18 - 20

6. Nauruan Consonant Epenthesis	21
7. Velar Nasal Intrusion	22
8. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect Suffix <i>‘-en’</i>	22
8.1. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect Suffix <i>‘-en’</i> in association with the adposition <i>‘ea, a’</i>	23 - 31
8.2. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect Suffix <i>‘-en’</i> in association with plural Independent Pronouns	31 - 34
8.3. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect Suffix <i>‘-en’</i> in association with the plural forms of the General Possessive Classifier and the Relative Possessive Classifier	34 - 35
9. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle <i>‘in’</i>	35
9.1. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle <i>‘in’</i> following plural Objective Pronouns	35 - 36
9.2. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle <i>‘in’</i> following plural possessive forms	36 -41
9.3. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle <i>‘in’</i> following final vowels	41
10. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with plural Independent Pronouns, plural General and Relative Possessive Classifiers forms, and plural Gerundive forms	41 - 42
11. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Gerundive in association with the adposition <i>‘ea, a’</i>	42 - 44

12. Possible Origin of the Velar Nasal Intrusion	44
13. Table of Classifiers	45 - 47
14. Notes	48 - 76
15. Tables	
1. Nauruan Vowels in IPA (adapted from Hughes 2020:15)	8
2. Nauruan Consonants in IPA (adapted from Hughes 2020:15)	8
3. Comparative Table of Nauruan Orthographies	17
4. Examples of Possessive Suffixes on Adposition 'itang'	23
5. The Adposition 'ea, a'	24
6. Kayser's example of Velar Nasal Intrusion and the Gerundive (adapted from NG28,29)	43
7. Nauruan Personal Pronouns	50
8. Male Demonstrative Numeral	51
9. Male Singular Demonstrative	53
10. Female Demonstrative Numeral	55
11. Animate Demonstrative Numeral	57
12. General Demonstrative	59 – 60
13. Some Satawalese 'min' Demonstratives (adapted from Roddy 2007:67)	60
14. Female Singular Demonstrative	61
15. Demonstrative Numeral, Classifier 21[4], 'ma,mae', long stiff object	62
16. Basic Template for Alienable Possessive Phrase	64, 68
17. Relative Possessive Classifier	64
18. Temporal Markers	65
19. Usual Pattern for Contrafactual Clauses	67

20. Animate Plural Demonstratives	67
21. General Possessive Classifier	68
22. Demonstratives for Classifier 30[3], ‘ <i>ra</i> ’, object presenting a flat surface of a hollow aspect	69
23. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 35[23], ‘ <i>wori</i> ’, number of times	70
24. Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 35[23], ‘ <i>wori</i> ’, number of times, based on numeral particle ‘ <i>aworin</i> ’	70
25. Demonstratives for Classifier 27[6], ‘ <i>oe</i> ’, plants, vegetation	72
26. Distributive Numeral, General and Animate (where these differ)	73 – 74
27. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 11[7], ‘ <i>eiyi</i> ’, word (in isolation)	75
28. Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 11[7], ‘ <i>eiyi</i> ’, word (in isolation), based on numeral particle ‘ <i>aeiyin</i> ’	75
29. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 7[18/19], ‘ <i>bweti/mweti</i> ’, long flexible object	75
30. Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 7[18/19], ‘ <i>bweti/mweti</i> ’, long flexible object, based on numeral particle ‘ <i>abwetin</i> ’	76
31. Fused Forms of Distributive Numeral, Classifier 11[7], ‘ <i>eiyi</i> ’, word (in isolation)	76
16. Appendices	77
Appendix 1 Distributive Numeral, Classifier 21[4], ‘ <i>ma,mae</i> ’, long stiff object, as found in Kayser’s <i>Nauru Grammar</i> (NG44)	77
Appendix 2 Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 35[23], ‘ <i>wori</i> ’, number of times, as found in Kayser’s <i>Nauru Grammar</i> (NG72)	77
17. References	78 - 81

1. Introduction

This is a text-based study of an aspect of Nauruan grammar that relies on publications in Nauruan dating mainly to the first half of the 20th Century. Any developments in contemporary Nauruan are only briefly touched on as it is not within the scope of the present study.

It is to be noted that the Nauruan reflected in the 1918 Bible and the 1976 New Testament and the language material presented in the 1936 *Nauru Grammar* are taken as valid representations of different registers of spoken Nauruan during the first half of the 20th Century.

The 1918 Bible was a culmination of 19 years of translation work by the American Protestant missionary Philip Adam Delaporte whose mother-tongue was German, having been born in Worms, Germany.

Delaporte arrived on Nauru in 1899 and set about learning Nauruan and was helped in his translation endeavours by a number of Nauruans, notably Timothy Detudamo (later Head Chief of Nauru), Jacob Aroi (later Pastor and educator), and Deireragea (later Chief of Anibare District).¹

Apart from short periods of furlough, Delaporte was resident on Nauru from 1899 until he was excluded from returning to Nauru in 1915 while on furlough in the U.S.A. as he was viewed as a German sympathizer. He was in the U.S.A., along with Timothy Detudamo, to complete the translation work and to arrange for the printing of the Bible in the U.S.A.

The 1976 New Testament is attributed to the Roman Catholic missionary Alois Kayser, who served as a missionary to the Nauruan people between 1902 and his death due to mistreatment by Japanese military authorities in 1944. He was absent for a brief period during WWI when he was required to leave Nauru by the Australian occupying forces as he held a German passport – Nauru having been a German colony between 1888 and 1914. As an Alsatian, his citizenship status was German until 1918, then, when Alsace-Lorraine reverted to French control, he became a French citizen. He was recognized as an expert on the Nauruan language and all things Nauruan. His is the 1936 *Nauru Grammar* (apparently handed to the Nauru Administration in 1937).²

On the basis of Aloys Kayser having died in 1944, I am of the mind that the 1976 New Testament was actually ready for publication prior to the occupation of Nauru by the Japanese in 1942.

There is uncertainty about the dialect situation on Nauru prior to German annexation. What is known is that in pre-colonial days there were two alliances, splitting the island into a northern alliance centered on Ewa (which included at the time what are now Nibok, Uaboe, Baitisi, Ewa, Anetan, Anabar, Ijuw, and half of Anibare districts), and a southern alliance centered on Meneng (which included at the time what are now half of Anibare, Meneng, Yaren, Boe, Buada, Aiwo, and Buada districts), while Denigomodu usually allied itself to Buada. Whether this split was also manifested in a dialectal way is not known.³

It is of interest that Delaporte set up his mission in the pre-colonial southern alliance area (Orro hamlet being situated in present day Boe district), while the Catholic mission that Kayser joined was located in the pre-colonial northern alliance area (Ana hamlet being situated in present Ewa district). So, if there were dialectal peculiarities based on the pre-colonial alliance areas, these may have been reflected in the Nauruan of Delaporte and Kayser.

The Nauruan language itself is recognized by linguists as being a divergent member of the Micronesian language family – itself a division of the Oceanic Group within the extensive Austronesian language family.⁴

2. Current Status of Nauruan.

The Nauruan language is confined to the island of Nauru (an independent republic since 1968), though there are small communities of Nauruans in neighbouring countries (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand among others). Nauruan is reported to be the official language of Nauru, although no mention of the Nauruan language is made in the Constitution of Nauru (1968). Concerns exist that the lack of state sponsorship and the lack of Nauruan language classes in the schools is threatening Nauruan, as well as the possibility of the creolization of Nauruan through English. See the May 25, 2021 article at <https://www.loopnauru.com/nauru-news/workshop-preserve-nauruan-language-100614>

The following figures are taken from the “National Report of Population and Housing – Census 2011”.

At the time of the 2011 census, the population of Nauru was 10,084.

According to the 2011 Census, 93% (circa 9,300) of the population of Nauru gave Nauruan as the language of the home.

Although 66% of the population were enumerated as able to speak English, only 2% of the population gave it as the language of the home.

The 2011 Census also revealed that 6% could speak Kiribati, 2% some form of Chinese, although these languages were not necessarily the language of the home.

95% of the population of those 5 years and older were enumerated as able to speak Nauruan.

The population is projected to peak mid century at 11,000, with a steady decline until the end of the century, with a 2100 estimate of circa 5,800 (UN World Population Prospects 2019).

3. Phonetics.

The most recent study in Nauruan phonology (see Hughes 2020) indicate 7 vowel phonemes.

Table 1. Nauruan Vowels in IPA (adapted from Hughes 2020:15).

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Mid	e	[ʌ]*	o
Low	æ	a	

* Hughes 2020 uses the IPA symbol [e] for [ʌ]. He considers it to be an allophone of /a/.

The Consonant inventory allows for at least 23 phonemes.

Table 2. Nauruan Consonants in IPA (adapted from Hughes 2020:15).

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p ^h b ^h p ^v b ^v	t d tʃ dʒ		k g kw
Nasal	m ^h m ^j m ^v m ^y	n		ŋ
Glide			j j	w
Rhotic		r ɾ		

3.1. Description of consonant phonemes:

/pʰ/ voiceless palatalized bilabial stop

[p] before /i/ and /e/

intervocalic lengthening

/bʰ/ voiced palatalized bilabial stop

[b] before /i/ and /e/, and word-final

intervocalic frication possible [β, βʰ]

phrase final [p]

/pˠ/ voiceless velarized bilabial stop

[p] before /o/ and /u/, and word-final

velarization optional before the central vowels /a/ and /ɨ/

intervocalic lengthening

/bˠ/ voiced velarized bilabial stop

[b] before /o/ and /u/

[p] in phrase-final position

velarization optional before central vowels /a/ and /ɨ/

/t/ voiceless apical stop

intervocalic lengthening

/d/ voiced apical stop

[t] in phrase final position

/tʃ/ voiceless palato-alveolar affricate

only before /i/

/dʒ/ voiced palato-alveolar affricate

only before /i/

/k/ voiceless velar stop

Intervocalic lengthening

/g/ voiced velar stop

[k] in phrase final position

can surface as [ɣ] intervocalically

/kʷ/ voiceless velar stop, secondary labialization

/mʲ/ palatalized bilabial nasal

[m] before /i/ and /e/, and word final

/mːʲ/ geminate palatalized bilabial nasal.

[mː] before /i/ and /e/, and word final

/mʲ/ velarized bilabial nasal

[m] before /o/ and /u/ and word final

velarization optional before central vowels /a/ and /ɨ/

/mːʲ/ geminate velarized bilabial nasal

[mː] before /o/ and /u/

velarization optional before central vowels /a/ and /ɨ/

/n/ apical alveolar nasal

/ŋ/ velar nasal

/w/ rounded labiovelar glide

/j/ palatal consonant with light to moderate frication which is variably absent; [j] ~ [j̥]

/j/ palatal approximant

/r/ alveolar trill

fortis trill /r̥/

3.2. Some observations of sound changes in Nauruan during the 20th Century.

There are several sound changes and changes in syntax that have occurred in Nauruan since the first half of the 20th Century, which may be due to the influence of English and/or the unfortunate loss of many of the language gatekeepers during the 2nd World War. ⁵ The governments of Nauru since 1945 have not fostered the development of Nauruan as a literary medium, nor is it taught in Nauruan schools.

Among the changes are:

1. the 'monophthongization' of the diphthongs [ai, ae] to [e]: i.e.

'aiquen', one > ekwen

'aiju', three, > eju

'aijimo', five > ejim'o

'aeiu', seven > eiju

'ngain', his/her child > ngen

2. The raising of vowels, example:

'eō', not > ia [iʌ]

3. 'ow' is simplified to /-o/, example:

'miow', fear > m'io [mio]

4. between high vowels, /j/ (which represents the palatal glide) is moving towards a fricated allophone, [j̥]: e.g. 'aijimo', 'five' > 'ejimo', > 'ej̥imo'. Already in pre-contact Nauruan /j/ had a fricated allophonic variant in certain environments (see Kayser 1936 page2) - this is spreading.

5. the diphthongs [ia, io, iu] which normally represented an initial non-syllabic vowel glide [ja, jo, ju] have drifted to [ja; jo; ju]; its sound varies from /j/ to the fricated sound [j̥], which is gaining the upper hand: e.g.

'ian', 'in it' > [jan/j̥an]

'ion', 'an, a' > [jon/j̥on]

'iut', 'Guettarda speciosa' > [jut/j̥ut]

ijōñ, below > jaŋ [j̥aŋ]

6. /t/ before the high vowel /i/ represents a voiceless affricate [ts], which in contemporary Nauruan has moved towards a voiceless palato-alveolar affricate [tʃ]. /d/ before the high vowel /i/ is the voiced counterpart, [dz], now moving towards [dʒ].

7. The fortis rhotic, which is represented by the glyph /ř/ in Hughes, in contemporary Nauruan appears to be merging with the usual rhotic /r/ in a number of speakers (see Nathan 1973.1 pages 6,7; Hughes 2020 pages 23, 97-100).

8. An instance mentioned by Hughes (Hughes 2020 page 80) is the confusion on the role of denasalization in the language. Although not all of the rules for denasalization have been ascertained from written records, denasalization usually occurs when a word-final /n/ is followed by a high vowel. However, it has been observed in contemporary Nauruan that word-final /n/ is being regularly denasalized to /t/, to the point that many are uncertain when a final /n/ should be pronounced with a final /t/; this alternation was not observed in Nauruan during the first half of the 20th Century. It seems to have been present to some degree by the 1970s as Nathan makes an interesting observation (Nathan 1973.1 page 5):

“In word-final position there exists a set of nasal phones whose phonemic identity has not yet been entirely established. They are ‘prestopped nasals’ [ʰm] and [ʰn]...[ʰn] I have no explanation, except that it may somehow be connected with a morphophonemic alternation between /n/ and /t/.”

This observation by Nathan may be part of the explanation for denasalization.

It could be that in an earlier stage of Nauruan, pre-stopping of /n/ (giving /ʰn/ began to develop intervocalically at word boundaries, but only where the following word began with the high vowels /i/ and /e/. The pre-stopping then developed into the denasalization process observed during the first half of the 20th Century.

Using this hypothesis, a phonological process that took place in an earlier stage of Nauruan may have looked like this:

ben imin weta > be^ʰn imin weta > bet imin weta

[the wing of a bird, literally: hand of thing it flies]

While occurring before the nominal prefix/absolute marker, the denasalization of /n/ to /t/ is not present before all high vowels. For instance, denasalization is not recorded when a word-final /n/ is followed by the initial high vowel /i/ of the locational adverbs *‘ine/ina/ino’*, ‘here,there,yonder’.

With the spread of denasalization in word-final position by analogical levelling, the syntactic reasons for the process are becoming blurred, causing confusion in the minds of the younger cohorts of mother-tongue speakers.

4. Orthography.

Nauruan does not at present have an official orthography, so citations are mainly given in the writing system of the original source. Although an official orthography was gazetted in the official gazette of Nauru (No.47 of 5th November 1938), it has never been implemented.

There have been several orthographies that have been used to write Nauruan. Among these are:

1. Orthography used by Paul Hambruch in his studies on Nauru in 1910.
2. Orthography used in the 1918 Bible and related Protestant texts.
3. Orthography used by Aloys Kayser in the journal “Anthropos” and related journals.
4. Orthography used by Aloys Kayser in his “Nauru Grammar”.
5. Orthography recommended by the Nauru Administration in 1938.
6. Orthography used by Aloys Kayser in the 1976 New Testament.

4.1. Observations on Kayser's orthographies 1936 and 1976.

Kayser in *Nauru Grammar* (1936) was apparently trying to produce a phonetic record of the Nauruan he heard and was taught. This phonetic transcription is never fully described and even within *Nauru Grammar* there are some variations in the spelling of the same word.

With regard to the consonant inventory, his description lacks any systematic representation of palatalized and velarized consonants.

There is no systematic description or transcription in the fact that in phrase final position the voicing of oral stops is neutralized:

_b	>	_p
_d	>	_t
_g	>	_k

however, he was aware of the variation in some verbs, i.e.

katuk NG175 to strain > katugien NG175 now he has strained it

He was aware of consonant gemination being a feature, but had no systematic description of transcription of it, as this quote shows (NG2):

In many cases where the word begins with m, this m is prefaced with a light sound almost amounting to a second, introductory m. = { [~]m }
e.g. [~]mo, good ... which is pronounced mmo = { m }

The orthography adopted in the 1976 New Testament is a much simplified system.

1. all diacritics are removed from vowels
2. [ä] is converted to [e]
3. [i] is converted to [u]
4. the velar nasal [ŋ] is converted to [ng]
5. the voiceless velar stop [q] is invariably converted to [kw]

4.2. Observations on the orthography of the 1918 Bible.

The orthography reduces the sound system of Nauruan to its absolute necessary parts, but one that a native speaker would be able to contend with, just as an English or French speaker contends with a very outdated and unphonetic/unphonemic writing system.

It uses 8 letters to cover the vowels. The letter /õ/ is mainly used to represent [ʌ] which the latest studies indicates is an allophone of /a/.

On the consonantal side, there is no apparent understanding of velarized versus palatalized consonants, consonant gemination, or word-/phrase final devoicing/simplification.

4.3. Comparative Table of Nauruan Orthographies.

Kayser 1936 Examples from <i>Nauru Grammar</i>	Kayser 1976 New Testament	1918 Bible	Hughes 2020
a man, he is clever; abab, to kill	a mwan abab	a man abab	æ em ^v æn æb ^v æp
ā ema ⁿ , he is dead	a eman	a eman	æ em ^v æn
ā wa ⁿ a, mine ouwak, big	a wanga ouwak	a wa ⁿ a ouwak	a ~ æ wa ⁿ a oaeg
ā eoquan, sun	a ekwan	a equan	æ k ^v æn
ä mäö, my eye bäö, my hand	e meo beo	e meö beö	e m ^e - b ^e -
ē jet, when?	e yet	e jet	e ijet
e innen, his mother aiquen, one	e innen aikwen	e inen aiquen	e ine- e-k ^v en
ē epe, stone bebe, light	e epe bebe	e epe bebe	e p ^e -n b ^e be
i ini, coconut	i	i	i ini
ī nīnenīn, to pull tightly	u nunginung	ū nūnīnūn	
o bobo, to smell	o bobo	o bobo	o b ^v ob ^v o
ō eōn, to cry	o eong	ō eōn	a ijan
ō ebōg, water etōnin, his father gōr, to run bäö, my hand ōd, go, pass mōg, dry	o ebog etongin gor beo od mog	ō ebōk etōnin gōr beō ōd mōg	a ~ ʌ ~ æ eb ^v ag etan- gar [bei/beʌ] ad m ^v æg
u dudu, to water	u dudu	u dudu	u dudu
ū ibūgibūgi, grass būm, night nabūna	u ibugibugi bum ngabuna	ū ibūgibūgi būm nabūna	u ib ^v ugib ^v ugi b ^v um ^v ŋab ^v una
u iju, fish	u iu	ū iū	u iju
u ibu, ashore	u ibu	ū ibū	
ā ā, yes	---	eh	ē
q, qu	kw	q, qu	kw
ñ	ng	ñ	ŋ

5. Abbreviations used.

1	First Person
2	Second Person
3	Third person
S	Singular
D	Dual
T	Trial
P	Plural
EXC	Exclusive
INC	Inclusive
ADV	Adverbial prefix
AB	Absolute Marker/Nominal Prefix <i>e-/i-</i>
ANIM	Animate Class
APPL	Applicative <i>-eiy/-ei</i>
CAUS	Causative Prefix <i>ka-/ga-</i>
CF	Contrafactual
CL	Classifier
COM	Comitative/Instrumental Suffix <i>on/ön</i>
COMM	Command <i>ka/kō</i>
COMP	Completive <i>ogiten</i>
COND	Conditional Marker
CONS	Construct Particle <i>in</i>
DAT	Dative
DEP	Dependent Form of Personal Pronoun
DIR	Directional
DIR1 – <i>eda/ida</i> upwards, out of, from DIR2 – <i>ädu/edu</i> downwards, in, back DIR3 – <i>ata</i> out, from within, upwards DIR4 – <i>atu</i> in,downwards	

DIR5 – <i>oda</i> steady movement forwards DIR6 – <i>odu</i> steady movement backwards DIR7 – <i>ruwei/ruweij/ruweiy</i> towards the speaker DIR8 – <i>n</i> general directional DIR9 – <i>w</i> general directional	
DIST	Distal
E	Emphatic Prefix <i>nga-/ña-</i>
FAC	Factitive Prefix <i>o-/ō-</i>
GPOS	General Possessive Classifier
GER	Gerundive
HS	Nauru 2007 Femographic and Health
IMM	Immediative <i>orren/ören</i>
INDF	Indefinite Pronoun
IND	Indipendent Form of Personal Pronoun
INTENS	Intensifier <i>kor/kōr</i>
LOC	Locative Prefix
MED	Medial
MOD	Modal <i>nim/num</i>
MUT	Mutual familial relationship
NE NEI NEII NEIII	Non-Emphatic Prefix non-emphatic demonstrative prefix, form I min- non-emphatic demonstrative prefix, form II mū-/mu- non-emphatic demonstrative prefix, form III bit-
NEG	Negative <i>eo/eō</i>
NP	Numeral Prefix <i>a-</i>
Nuw	Nuwawit testament obuä
NuwNT	Nuwawit testament etimeduw
OBJ	Objective Form of Personal Pronoun Suffix
OP	Optative
PERF	Perfective Aspect Suffix <i>-en</i>
PERS	Persistive <i>ekeowina</i>

POS	Possessive Personal Pronoun Suffix
PREI	Pre-Inceptive <i>eitiok/eitsiōk</i>
PROG	Progressive <i>oreita/öreita</i>
PROX	Proximal
RED	Reduplicated Form of Verb/Noun
RPOS	Relative Possessive Classifier
SUCC	Successful Outcome Suffix <i>wong/wōñ</i>
SUP	Superlative form
Tag	Question Tag
TEMP	Temporal
UNR	Unrealized Aspect <i>inan/nan</i>
UNR.NEG	Unrealized Negative Aspect Marker <i>eab</i>
V	Verb
VNI	Velar Nasal Intrusion
1976	Nuwawit Testament Etimeduw 1976
NG	Nauru Grammar 1936
*	Unattested form

6. Nauruan Consonant Epenthesis.

This paper looks at consonant epenthesis in the Nauruan language. By ‘epenthesis’ is meant the addition of one or more sounds to a word that do not carry any independent meaning, and is a feature found in a number of languages around the globe.

The epenthetic sound may occur between vowels, between consonants, at the beginning of words/syllables, or, at the end of words/syllables.⁶

Other words used with the same or near-identical meaning of epenthesis are “insertion,” “intrusion,” and “linking,”

Rebecca Morley makes this observation:

“epenthesis is ‘triggered’ or ‘conditioned’ by the presence of specific environments. Such environments may consist of sequences that are disallowed or dispreferred within the language.” - see her article “Consonant Epenthesis”, <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com>

This study looks at the following example of epenthesis in Nauruan:

Consonant Epenthesis in the form of Velar Nasal Intrusion.

7. Velar Nasal Intrusion.

Velar Nasal Intrusion, i.e. the appearance of the sound /ng/ (IPA notation /ŋ/), is linked to five grammatical aspects of Nauruan:

1. The Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’.
2. The plural independent pronouns.
3. The plural forms of the General Possessive Classifier and the Relative Possessive Classifier.
4. The Construct Particle ‘in’.
5. The Gerundive suffixes

8. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’.

There are three areas where the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’ triggers the velar nasal intrusion:

1. In association with the adposition ‘ea, a’, ‘to’.
2. In association with the plural independent pronouns.
3. In association with the plural forms of the General Possessive Classifier and the Relative Possessive Classifier.

8.1 Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’ in association with the adposition ‘ea,a’.

When a verb is:

(a) modified by the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’, and

(b) the verb is accompanied by the adposition ‘ea,a’, ‘to’,

the usual placement of the Perfective Aspect suffix changes.

The adposition ‘ea’ (and its reduced form ‘a’), meaning ‘to’ is unusual.

In Nauruan, adpositions behave like inalienable nouns in that they attach to themselves the possessive suffixes that inalienable nouns use to indicate possession.

Table 4 . Examples of Possessive Suffixes on Adposition ‘itang’ .

	Inalienable Noun, ‘etong’, ‘father’	Adposition ‘itang, ‘by’
1 st Person Singular	etong -u	itang -u
2 nd Person Singular	etong -um	itang -um
3 rd Person Singular	etong- in	itang -in
1 st Person Dual Exclusive	etong -imar	itang -imar
1 st Person Dual Inclusive	etong -itar	itang -itar
2 nd Person Dual	etong -umuror	itang -umuror
3 rd Person Dual	etong -uror	itang -uror
1 st Person Trial Exclusive	etong -imey	itang -imeiy
1 st Person Trial Inclusive	etong -iteiy	itang -iteiy
2 nd Person Trial	etong- umieiy	itang - umieiy
3 rd Person Trial	etong -ureiy	itang -ureiy
1 st Person Plural Exclusive	etong -ima	itang -ima
1 st Person Plural Inclusive	etong -ita	itang -ita
2 nd Person Plural	etong -umie	itang -umie
3 rd Person Plural	etong -ura	itang -ura

However, the adposition 'ea/a', attaches to itself the objective forms of the personal pronouns:

Table 5. The Adposition 'ea, a'.

	Adposition 'ea, a'
1 st Person Singular	a me (irregular)
2 nd Person Singular	a uw/aw
3 rd Person Singular	a (zero suffix)
1 st Person Dual Exclusive	a kamar
1 st Person Dual Inclusive	a katar
2 nd Person Dual	a kamuror
3 rd Person Dual	a uror
1 st Person Trial Exclusive	a kamey
1 st Person Trial Inclusive	a kateiy
2 nd Person Trial	a kamieiy
3 rd Person Trial	a ureiy
1 st Person Plural Exclusive	a kama
1 st Person Plural Inclusive	a kata
2 nd Person Plural	a kamie
3 rd Person Plural	a ura

From the above table it can be seen that when 'ea, a' appears without any overt objective person marker, it is 3rd person by default.

When the adposition 'ea, a' is in its 1st Person Singular form or 2nd Person Singular form, the Perfective Aspect suffix '-en' is displaced from its normal position - which is after the verb - to a new position - the Perfective Aspect Suffix is attached directly to the form of the personal pronoun, i.e. :

(a) 1st person singular: $V + 'a\ me' + '-en' > 'a\ men'$

Example: wo pan a men NG167 you have told me

(b) 2nd person singular: $V + 'a\ uw' + '-en' > 'a\ uwen'$

Example: a oij' a uwen NG167 I have given it to you

However, where

(a) the adposition has a 3rd Person (singular or non-singular) form

the Perfective Aspect suffix is shifted from the end of the verb to the end of the adposition, with the velar nasal /ng/ being inserted between 'ea, a' and the Perfective Aspect suffix, and this obligatory, i.e. :

V + a (3rd person default) + -en > V + angen

V + a + uror + -en > V + angen uror

V + a + ureiy + -en > V + angen ureiy

V + a + ura + -en > V + angen ura

Examples:

1.

a⁷ pan a^hen NG4

1S.DEP speak to+VNI+PERF

I have already told him, I have just told him

2.

a oij' a^hen NG4

1S.DEP give to+VNI+PERF

I have already given it him, I have just given him

3.

a ririh a^hen NG167

1S.DEP do to+VNI+PERF

I have now done it to him

4.

a oij' a^hen amerumena⁸ NG167

1S.DEP give to+VNI+PERF male+two+ANIM+MED

I have already given it to those two men

5.

a totow a^hen amea⁹ eäb äben¹⁰ NG207

1S.DEP give to+VNI+PERF male+MED land INDF+CL10[15]

I have already given that man there a piece of land

6.

oij'ahet¹¹ ärumena¹² agän¹³ me hain NG219

give to+VNI+PERF female+two+ANIM+MED spouse+3S.POS & child+3S.POS
then gave (them) to his two wives and to his child/children

7.

edorer ahen amerumena⁸ ijiben, ñarumen¹⁴ aget¹¹ äirumena¹²

3S.DEP+talk to+VNI+PERF male+two+ANIM+MED in-law+3S.POS E+two+ANIM+ spouse+CONS female+two+ANIM+MED

ñain¹³ Ge 19:14

child+3S.POS

he then spoke to his two sons-in-law who were husbands of those two women, his daughters/husbands of his two daughters

8.

mō¹⁵ ō¹⁶ kania ahen towedūdū n Gilead Ge 31:21

& 3S.DEP look to+VNI+PERF mountain CONS Gilead

and he then looked to the mountain of Gilead

9.

mō¹⁵ ōñabedan¹⁷ oniñ ia¹⁸ me äita¹⁹ ōbū mo¹⁵ oija¹⁷ ahet¹¹ äita¹⁹

& FACT+old+DIR1+PERF small MED & female+MED take & give to+VNI+PERF female+MED

ñain Pharaoh me¹⁵ e²⁰ eken¹⁷ ñain Ex 2:10

child+CONS Pharaoh & --- act.as+PERF child+3SPOS

that child then grew up and she took him and then gave him to the daughter of Pharaoh and he became her son

10.

äita¹⁹ ōbaida badōr it ikimama ion¹⁰, mo¹⁵ oija¹⁷ ahen bwe enimō²¹ nim,

female+MED 3S.DEP+open bottle CONS AB+milk INDF & give to+VNI+PERF for 3S.DEP+MOD drink

mo o woijeñ¹⁹ Judg 4:19

& 3S.DEP cover+PERF

she opened a bottle of milk and then gave it to him so that he should drink and then covered him

11.

oniñ ia dañan Jonathan enada mijimaōa^{23, 24} mwit¹¹ dobonara

young MED companion+CONS Jonathan 3S.DEP+gather.up NEI+three+CL21[4]+MED point+CONS bow

me¹⁵ eredō ahen wōn²⁵ temoniba 1Sa 20:38

& 3S.DEP+return to+VNI+PERF RPOS+3S.POS lord

Jonathan's youthful companion gathered up those three arrows and then returned to his master

12.

rō¹⁵ ōrean ahen uea Solomon 1Ki 9:28

3P.DEP bring to+VNI+PERF king Solomon

they then brought it to King Solomon

13.

e tik ōredōan ahen uea eñōg 2Ki 22:9

3S.DEP yet FAC+return+COM2 to+VNI+PERF king AB+word

he then again brought back word to the king

14.

Haman etoroñabei ahen ūra⁷ amon wōn²⁵ imin ñan¹⁸ ebak Es 5:11

Haman 3S.DEP+story+APPL to+VNI+PERF 3P.OBJ good+CONS R.POS+POS AB+thing E+MED.P+ many

Haman then recounted to them the goodness of his riches

15.

eo ereribe añen mañaiũ Ps 22:15

tongue+1S.POS stick to+VNI+PERF jaw+1S.POS
my tongue has stuck to my jaws

16.

bwe bita¹⁸ eta eadangan aworan mungana¹⁸ imin ero Matt 3:10 1976

for NEIII+MED AB+ax reach+to+VNI+PERF root+CONS NEII+MED AB+thing 3S.DEP+grow
for the ax has already reached to the roots of the trees

17.

ametimena⁸ rat¹¹ ekereri re tidien²⁶ ngaga²⁷ ngana²⁴ pwan angen ureiy

male+three+MED branch+CONS AB+CAUS+learn 3PDEP know+PERF TEMP+MED E+MEDP speak to+VNI+PERF 3T.OBJ

nuwawin amea Johannes Baptista Matt 17:13 1976

concerning+3S.POS male+MED John Baptist

and those three male disciples then understood at that time that [he] had then spoken to the three of them concerning John the Baptist

18.

ouge¹⁷ angen ura⁷ Matt 22:21 1976

say to+VNI+PERF 3P.OBJ
then said to them

19.

omo angen²⁹ amea⁹ ngago²⁹ eo bet pudu Matt 26:24 1976

3S.DEP+good to+VNI male+MED TEMP+DIST NEG also fall
it had been good for him had he not been born

20.

re didobo angen ngabuna³⁰ engel Matt 20:36 1976

3P.DEP similar to+VNI+PERF E+ANIM.P+MED angel
they are now similar to the angels

21.

dogin bwe kaniangen yungit¹¹ eita¹⁹ an³¹ tiyo Lu1:48 1976

reason+3S.POS for look+to+VNI+PERF below+CONS female+MED GPOS+3S.POS servant
because he has now looked at the lowness of his servant woman

22.

me ñag ar⁷ òreit ekeowina eat¹¹ edorer me ekamarar, Jesu etüren a ùrör⁷,

& TEMP+MED 3D.DEP PROG persist on+3S.POS AB+talk & AB+think Jesus 3S.DEP+draw.near to 3D.OBJ

me e²⁰ towepo¹⁷ añen ùrör⁷ Lu24:15

& --- go.along.with to+VNI+PERF 3D.OBJ

and while the two of them were continuing talking and reasoning, Jesus approached them and he went along with them

23.

me aikwen auror³¹ goro amerumena⁸ me¹⁵ eparangen Petrus

& one GPOS+3D.POS run male+two+ANIM+MED & 3S.DEP+ haste+to+VNI Peter

amea⁹ rat¹¹ kereri ion¹⁰ John 20:4 1976

male+MED branch+CONS CAUS+learn INDF

and those two their running was one (i.e. they ran together) and the other disciple then was quicker than Peter

24.

me¹⁵ āita¹⁹ ñag²⁷ ōkaiōt, i ta riapaeda¹⁷ me¹⁵ eogoda¹⁷ me¹⁵ enañña
& female+MED TEMP+MED+ 3S.DEP+hear only rise.up & get.up & 3S.DEP+go

añen John 11:20

to+VNI+PERF

and she, when she heard it, rose, got up and then went to him

25.

nungidangen memag ngabuna³⁰ eamen Jerusalem ngana²⁸ ouga¹⁷ Ac 1:19 1976
reveal+to+VNI+PERF all E+ANIM.P+MED AB+man.for Jerusalem E+MED.P be.so

it was then revealed to all the people of Jerusalem that it was so

26.

ñag²⁷ e²⁰ ereribe¹⁷ a Petrus mi Johannes, eñame memak
TEMP+MED+ --- stick to Peter & John AB+person all

rō gōrōbudō añen ūrei⁷ eow iat¹¹ edebae, ñarana³² ã³³ ij egen
3P.DEP rush to+VNI+PERF 3T.OBJ DIR in+3S.POS AB+platform E+CL30[3]+MED 3S.DEP choose name+3S.POS

bwe wōn²⁵ debae Solomon Ac 3:11

for R.POS+3S.POS platform Solomon

as he held fast to Peter and John, all the people then ran together to the three of them in the porch that is called Solomon's porch

27.

bwe eko eg ion iñōñin ianweron ñea¹⁸ ã³³ oija añet eñame Ac 4:12
for be.not name INDF below+3S.POS heaven E+MED 3S.DEP give to+VNI+PERF AB+person

for there is no name under heaven that has been given to men

28.

me ouwaken¹⁷ aura³¹ eo mumwi engame me torerangen¹⁷ ura⁷
& great+PERF GPOSS+3P.POS NEG noise AB+person & talk+to+VNI+PERF 3P.OBJ

iat¹¹ etorer ngea¹⁸ hebrew Ac 21:40 1976

in+3S.POS AB+talk E+MED Hebrew

and the silence of the people was now great and (he) then talked to them in the Hebrew language

29.

bwe ngaga²⁷ eman ea mungana¹⁸ idura, me aiworiten^{34,35} an³¹ ima ;
for TEMP+MED 3S.DEP+die+PERF to NEII+MED.P AB+sin & NP+one+CL35[23]+PERF GPOS+3S.POS AB+die

me ngag²⁷ etimor me timorangen¹⁷ God Ro 6:10 1976

& TEMP+MED+ 3S.DEP+live & live+to+VNI+PERF God

for when he had died for those sins, his death is now once; and when he lives, he now lives to God

30.

bwe¹⁵ enim eke ometimetieiyeta ngatta⁷ ang⁷ eagadangen bita¹⁸
for 3S.DEP+MOD act.as FAC+admonish+1P.INC.GER E+1P.INC.IND 1P.INC.DEP reach+to+VNI+PERF NEIII+MED

edae ngea¹⁸ togit¹¹ edae 1Co 10:11 1976

AB+time E+MED end+CONS AB+time

so that it should act as the repeated admonition of us/our being repeatedly admonished, we who have already reached the time that is the end of time

31.

ngaga²⁷ iturugagon aura³¹ kamarar me r ogoeow angen
 TEMP+MED AB+dark+SUP+CONS GPOS+3P.POS think & 3P.DEP far to+VNI+PERF

timorin God Eph 4:18

live+CONS God

since their thinking is now darkened and they are now far from the life in association with God

32.

Gott e kăwăwej öt¹¹ ebaubo tuwet¹¹ añmă ion me jiw añen măt¹¹ onano
 God 3S.DEP CAUS+shape+APPL COMM AB+clay flesh+CONS AB+person INDF & blow to+VNI+PERF face+3S.POS AB+breath

ñea¹⁸ bait³⁶ timor Nuw3:1

E+MED object+CONS live

God formed from the mud a human body and then blew into its face the breath that is to do with life

(b) the adposition is followed by the 1st Person non-singular pronouns

the Perfective Aspect suffix is shifted from the end of the verb to the end of the adposition, with the velar nasal /ng/ being inserted between 'ea, a' and the Perfective Aspect suffix, and this obligatory, i.e. :

V + a + kamar + -en > V + angen kamar

V + a + katar + -en > V + angen katar

V + a + kameiy + -en > V + angen kameiy

V + a + kateiy + -en > V + angen kateiy

V + a + kama + -en > V + angen kama

V + a + kata + -en > V + angen kata

Examples:

33.

ekeken ñune¹⁸ Gott eririñ añen gada^{7?} Ge 42:28

what E+PROX God 3S.DEP+do to+VNI+PERF 1P.INC.OBJ

what is this God has now done to us?

34.

wo tsitobo añen gama⁷ Is 14:10

2S.DEP similar to+VNI+PERF 1P.EXC.OBJ

you are already similar to us

35.

arei⁷ oija añen gamar^{7,37} Barnabas damarũmin bõrei in kewin Ga2:9 1976

3P.T.DEP give to+VNI+PERF 1D.EXC.OBJ Barnabas right+CONS hand+3T.POS CONS CAUS+associate

the three of them then gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of their fellowship

(c) the adposition is followed by the 2nd Person non-singular pronouns

the Perfective Aspect suffix is shifted from the end of the verb to the end of the adposition, with the velar nasal /ng/ being inserted between 'ea, a' and the Perfective Aspect suffix, and this obligatory, i.e. :

V + a + kamuror + -en > V + angen kamuror

V + a + kamieiy + -en > V + angen kmieiy

V + a + kamie + -en > V + angen kamie

Examples:

36.

a ta pan añen kamurör ⁷ NG167

1S.DEP only speak to+VNI+PERF 2D.OBJ

I have just now told it to the two of you, I have told you two

37.

a pan añen kamie ⁷ me ma [sic; mwa] eö rabaeö NG20

1S.DEP speak to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ & 2P.DEP

NEG obey+1S.OBJ

I have already told it to you but you do not obey me

38.

ama ⁷ oeongangen kamie ⁷ mungana ¹⁸ flute

2P.EXC.DEP FAC+cry.out+to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ NEII+MED.P flute

me mwa eo ruwon Matt 11:17 1976

& 2P.DEP NEG dance+PERF

we then made to sound those flutes for you but you did not dance

39.

togin [sic: dogin] bwe eoiyangen kamie ngamie amie tiet imin mungana

reason+3S.POS for 3S.DEP+give+to+VNI 2P.OBJ E+2P.IND 2P.DEP know AB+thing NEII+MED.P

mysterio n monibain ian oeron me eo oiya ngabuna Matt 13:11 1976

mystery CONS rule+CONS heaven & NEG give.to E+ANIM.P+MED

because one has now given to you your knowledge of the things of the mystery of the kingdom of heaven and not given to those ones

40.

bwa A oija añen gamiã ekar ion, bwa amwaimõ gar bita ñea

for 1S.DEP give to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ AB+copy INDF for 2P.DEP+MOD copy NEIII+MED E+MED

A ogiten ririñ a gamiã John 13:15

1S.DEP COMPL do to 2P.OBJ

for I have already given to you an example, so that you should imitate the one that I had done for you

41.

mõ õmamaran a gamiã imin memak ñan A pan añen gamiã John 14:26

& remember+RED to 2P.OBJ AB+thing all E+MED.P+ 1S.DEP speak to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ
and brings to your mind all the things that I have already spoken to you

42.

oiyotuwangen kamie amea bwe enim omawireiy kamie Ac 3:26 1976

send.down+DIR9+to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ male+MED for 3S.DEP+MOD bless+APPL 2P.OBJ
he has now sent him down so that he should bless you

8.2. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’ in association with the plural independent pronouns.

When a plural Independent Pronoun is associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix ‘-en’, the velar nasal is inserted between the two elements, i.e. :

Independent Pronoun + -en > Independent Pronoun + VNI +-en

Examples:

43.

kania, amañen an tsiõ waña temoniba Ge 44:16

look, 1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF GPOS+3S.POS servant R.POS+1S.POS lord
look, we are now my lord’s servants

44.

me ian burioura uranget³⁸ wolfibun in keiyagin Matt 7:15 1976

& in+3S.POS innards+3P.POS 3P.IND+VNI+PERF wolf others CONS devour
and in their hearts they have now become some devouring wolves

45.

engame emaen³⁹ eko men uranget⁴⁰ amen eeow engame emaen³⁹

AB+person INDF+CL21[4] be.not eye+3S.POS 3P.IND+VNI+PERF male+for lead AB+person INDF+CL21[4]

ekeow men bet Matt 15:14 1976

be.not+DIR eye+3S.POS also

a party of men having no eyes, they have become leaders of a party of men also having no eyes/the blind have become leaders also of the blind

46.

re didobo angen ngabuna engel me urangen ngain God

3P.DEP similar to+VNI+PERF E+ANIM.P+MED angel & 3P.IND+VNI+PERF child+CONS God

ngaga ura ngait¹¹ irida Matt 20:36 1976

TEMP+MED 3PIND child+CONS AB+rise

they are now similar to the angels and they have become children of God when they are children of the resurrection

47.

amanget itiyō emaen³⁹ ekeow woun Lu 17:10 1976

1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF AB+servant INDF+CL21[4] be.not+DIR value+3SPOS
we have become a party of servants of no value

48.

amienget⁴⁰ amen okaduwaneiy angogen mungana Lu24:48 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF male+CONS CAUS+witness+APPL word+CONS NEII+MED.P
you are now witnesses concerning these things

49.

anga outain ngaoena⁴¹ wein, amiengen mungana wawan John 15:5 1976

1S.IND stock+CONS E+CL27[6]+MED vine 2P.IND+VNI+PERF NEII+MED.P branch+RED+3S.POS
I am the stock of the vine, you are now its branches

50.

amiengen ngangain ngabuna prophet Ac 3:25 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF child+RED+CONS E+ANIM.P+MED prophet
you are now the children of those prophets

51.

amanget⁴⁰ amen oduwen mungana Acts 5:32 1976

1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF male+CONS witness NEII+MED.P
we are now witnesses of these things

52.

attangen an ngame amea Demoniba Ro 14:8 1976

1P.INC.IND+VNI+PERF GPOS+3S.POS person male+MED Lord
we are now the people of the Lord

53.

tekeiy amanget¹¹ engame emaen³⁹ enim ima, ngaga amangen

like 1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF AB+person INDF+21[4] 3S.DEP+MOD die TEMP+MED 1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF

ta imin dobwain tero ea eb 1Co 4:9 1976

only AB+thing faithful+CONS watch to AB+land
it is like we are now a group of people that should die, since we are now a faithful thing for observation to the world

54.

tekeiy anang amangen bwiubwiyin bwadubwedin eb ane 1Co 4:13 1976

like as though 1P.EXC.IND+VNI+PERF [---]+CONS rubbish+CONS AB+land PROX.P
it is like as though we are now the [---] rubbish of the world

55.

amienget teman baruen beo n apostel eow iat Demoniba 1Co 9:2 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF sign+CONS service+1S.POS CONS apostle DIR in+3S.POS lord
you are now the sign of my service as an apostle in the Lord

56.

amienget tuwen amea Christus me bwabwait tuwen tamo ion o ion 1Co 12:27 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF flesh+CONS male+MED Christ & thing+RED+CONS flesh+3S.POS any INDF VE INDF
now you are Christ's body, and each of you individually is a member of his body

57.

amar tied ngana ngaga amienget dangomar ian amar maga 2Co 1:7 1976

1D.DEP know E+MED.P TEMP+MED 2P.IND+VNI+PERF companion+1D.POS in+3S.POS G.POS+1D.POS pain
you know that since you are now companions of both of us in our sufferings

58.

amiengen okor murana wamar tereta 2Co 3:2 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF INTENS NEII+CL30[3]+MED R.POS+1D.EXC.POS letter
you are really now the written letter of us both

59.

me ngaga amiengen ngain Ga 4:6 1976

& TEMP+MED 2P.IND+VNI+PERF son+3S.POS
and since you are now his sons

60.

ta amienget emeg me ekeow Christus turumie Ga 5:4 1976

only 2P.IND+VNI+PERF 3S.DEP+dwel and be.not+DIR Christ by+2P.POS
only you are now living without the Christ with you

61.

amienges eiaw ngage eow iat Demoniba Eph 5:8 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF AB+light TEMP+PROX DIR in+3S.POS lord
now you are the light at this time in the Lord

62.

amienges amen gaar garimeiy me garin God 1Thes 1:6 1976

1P.IND+VNI+PERF man.for copy copy+APPL & copy+CONS God
you are now imitators (of) our (three) copying and the copying of the Lord

63.

amienges ekewew ea ngabuna rat mogur memag 1Thess 1:7 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF AB+example to E+ANIMP+MED branch+CONS AB+work all
you have become the example to all fellow workers

64.

amienges amen oduwet deideimeiy in meg 1Thes 2:10 1976

2P.IND+VNI+PERF man.for FAC+truth manner+1T.EXC.POS CONS dwell
you are now witnesses of the manner of our (trial) living

65.

amienges amen gaar mungana an ecclesia God mungan emeg

2P.IND+VNI+PERF man.for copy NEII+MED.P G.POS+3S.POS ecclesia God NEII+MED.P+ 3S.DEP+dwel

Judea eow ian Christus Jesus 1Thes 2:14 1976

Judea DIR in+3S.POS Christ Jesus
you are now imitators of those ecclesia of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus

66.

amienget engame emaen ngabun ewina ura ikimwamwa me

2P.IND+VNI+PERF AB+person INDF+CL21[4] E+ANIM.P+ fitting+to 3P.OBJ AB+breastmilk &

t'eo iyeiyi mungan oaeo He 5:12 1976

only+NEG AB+food NEII+MED.P.+ strong

you are now a group of people, those who it is fitting for them breastmilk and not strong foods

67.

tekeiy ngaga eo riring ngana ia t'eo eat angoget swear (ngabuna inon

like TEMP+MED NEG do E+MED.P COND only+NEG on+3S.POS AB+word+CONS swear E+ANIM.P+MED others

uranget priest ngaga bet ekeow angogorangan swear) He 7:20,21

3P.IND+VNI+PERF priest TEMP+MED also be.not+DIR word+3P.POS+VNI+CONS swear

like that time when those things were not performed except by an oath (those others became priests when there were no oaths of theirs , i.e. without an oath on their part)

68.

uranget ebogen eren, ngan eko bogen, me urangen mungana oeron

3P.IND+VNI+PERF AB+well E+MED.P be.not water+3S.POS & 3P.IND+VNI+PERF NEII+MED.P cloud

engit eran oaeo onuwaiwien 2Pet 2:17

AB+wind INDF+CL30[3] strong take.away+IOT+PERF

they have become wells that have no water and they have become clouds a strong wind has now taken away

8.3. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix '-en' in association with the plural forms of the General Possessive Classifier and the Relative Possessive Classifier.

When a plural form of the General Possessive Classifier and Relative Possessive Classifier are associated with the Perfective Aspect suffix '-en', the velar nasal is inserted between the two elements, i.e. :

General Possessive Classifier

Relative Possessive Classifier + -en >

General Possessive Classifier

Relative Possessive Classifier + VNI + -en

Examples:

69.

70.

wongarangen bita monibain ian oeron Matt 19:14 1976

R.POS+3P.POS+VNI+PERF NEIII+MED rule+CONS in+3S.POS cloud

the kingdom of the heavens now belongs to them

71.

wamiengen bita monibain God Lu 6:20 1976

RPOS+2P.POS+VNI+PERF NEIII+MED rule+CONS God
yours now is the kingdom of God

72.

wongarangen bita monibain God ngabuna ouga deidein Lu 18:16

R.POS+3P.POS+VNI+PERF NEIII+MED rule+CONS God E+ANIM.P+MED be.so. ways+3S.POS
the Kingdom of God now belongs to those whose ways are such

9. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’

The Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’ is found in the following circumstances:

1. After plural Objective Pronouns
2. After plural Possessive suffixes
3. After final vowels

9.1. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’ after plural objective pronouns.

When a plural form of objective pronoun is associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’, the velar nasal is inserted between the two elements, i.e. :

plural objective pronoun + in > plural objective pronoun + VNI + -en

Examples:

73.

chariot ma amen gōr animwen pferde rō òōaio ũrañ in edegeri erowin 2Sam 2:6

chariot & man.for run atop+3S.POS horse 3P.DEP FAC+strong 3P.OBJ+VNI CONS follow behind+3S.POS
chariots and the riders strengthened themselves for following after him

74.

mō ò òijōn ũrañ in karakarumen ⁴² Mark 6:7

& --- send 3P.OBJ+VNI CONS CAUS+two+RED
and he sent them away in pairs

75.

mwa omamegedu ko ura me otate urangin gadagatima ⁴² Lu 9:14 1976

2P.DEP FAC+sit.down+RED COMM 3P.OBJ & arrange 3P.OBJ+CONS CAUS+RED+fifty
make them sit down and arrange themselves in groups of fifty each

76.

mō ōijōn ūrañ in karakarumen ⁴² ian obwen, ea tekawa memak

& send 3P.OBJ+VNI CONS CAUS+two+RED in+3S.POS before+3S.POS to town all

me etañ memak, ino i nan ñow bet Lu 10:1

& AB+place all yonder UNR go also

and sent them in twos before his face to all towns and all places, yonder he will also comewhither he himself was about to come

77.

a oiyoten kamiengin kakepwoiy mungana mwa eo mogureiy John 4:38 1976

1S.DEP send+PERF 2P.OBJ+VNI+CONS CAUS+gather+RED+APPL NEII+MED.P 2P.DEP NEG work+APPL

I have sent you to reap those things you did not work on

78.

a eab eatow kamiengin eko apoiyemie John 14:18 1976

1S.DEP UNR.NEG leave 2P.OBJ+VNI+CONS be.not comfort+2P.POS

I will not leave you without your comfort

79.

imur ia tuk buog urangin iwid burioura 1Co 11:ftn 21

later COND yet help 3P.OBJ+VNI+CONS turn.back innards+3P.POS

after heping them to turn back their hearts (convert)

80.

ngana a oreit epoa urangin eke anga engab, me anga amen oduwen angogen

E+MED.P 1S.DEP PROG together+to 3P.POS act.as 1S.IND AB+old & 1S.IND male.for FAC+true word+CON

an moga Christus me anga bet ion inan timine dubwangu ian

GPOS+3S.POS suffer Christ & 1S.IND also INDF UNR exist share+1S.POS in+3S.POS

bita eraidid 1Pe 5:1 1976

NEIII+M AB+glory

that I am together with them acting as an elder, and I am a witness about the sufferings of the Christ, and I will also one who will have my share in glory

9.2. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’ after plural possessive suffixes.

Examples:

81.

ñabūn ebebe būriōūrañ in teñ Ex 35:22

E+ANIM.P+ 3S.DEP+light innards+3P.POS+VNI CONS want

those ones whose willing hearts wanted to

82.

dedemañ in kona n doganigae a Judg 16:5

way+1P.EXC.+VNI CONS able CONS prevail to
our way to be able to prevail against him

83.

tekei aeōrañ in mat eñame ñago me ñago 1Sa 24:13

like word+3P.POS+VNI CONS wise AB+person ago & ago
according to the words of wisdom of the ancients

84.

rõ kamararei dedeũrañ in ijen aũra atarõ iat eõ nũñida Ps 64:5

3P.DEP think+APPL way+3P.POS+VNI CONS lay G.POS+3P.POS snare in+3S.POS NEG reveal
They plan their manner of laying their snares in secret

85.

dogin bwe amea Moses oiya kamie burioumiengin oiyot inna einibuna

reason+3S.POS for male+MED Moses give.to 2P.OBJ innards+2P.POS+VNI+CONS send there female+ANIM.P+MED

agemie, dogin bwe ramenungin en burioumie ; me eo

spouse+2P.POS reason+3S.POS for obstinacy+3S.GER innards+2P.POS & NEG

kouga imit atin ngago kor amo earuweiy Matt 19:8 1976

CAUS+be.so AB+thing from TEMP+DIST & TEMP+DIST past
because Moses allowed your sending away your wives because of the hardness of your hearts but it was not such a thing from the beginning

86.

mwa oiya ko ngabune okaiyuyu toworangan nangame Mark 10:14 1976

2P.DEP give+to COMM E+ANIM.P+PROX little opportunity+3P.POS+VNI+CONS go+to+1S.DAT
give these little ones their opportunity of going to me

87.

amea Moses oiya engame buriourangan eare tebuk eran bwait imwiyou

male+MED Moses give+to AB+person innards+3P.POS+VNI+CONS write book INDF+CL30[3] thing+CONS AB+separate

Mark 10: 1976

Moses allowed people their disposition to write a divorce document

88.

t'eo aeiyn⁴³ mungana angogorangan kaduwen bwe ekae me ekae Mark 14:59 1976

only+NEG one+CL11[7] NEII+MED.P word+3P.POS+VNI+CONS CAUS+true for different & different
their testimony was not one word (in accord) but was different and different

89.

mũ ũra memak ñabũna re mek iat synagoge erõg mōrañ

& 3P.IND all E+ANIM.P+MED 3P.DEP dwell in+3S.POS synagogue 3S.DEP+fix eye+3P.POS+VNI

in tō kania Lu 4:20

CONS only look

and all those in the synagogue, their eyes were fixed to look at him

90.

mwa eo mwid ko angoget ima me inan eo mwid angogomiengin ima Lu 6:37 1976

2P.DEP NEG separate COMM word+CONS AB+die & UNR NEG separate word+2P.POS+VNI+CONS AB+died
do not judge to death and you will not be judged to death

91.

ngabuna re egegee bwe enim oiya ura toworangan metuw
E+ANIM.P+MED 3P.DEP entreat for 3S.DEP+MOD give+to 3P.OBJ opportunity+3P.POS+VNI+CONS go.in+DIR9
ian burioun mibuna. me oiyangen ura towora Lu 8:32 1976
in+3S.POS innards+CONS NEII+ANIM.P+MED & give+to+VNI+PERF 3P.OBJ opportunity+3P.POS
those ones they entreated him that he should allow them to enter into the interiors of those (other) ones and he then allowed them

92.

oiyon ko engame bwe re nim nanga mungana etang in meg me dagaoa mungan
send COM AB+person for 3P.DEP MOD go.to NEII+MED.P AB+place CONS dwell & town NEII+MED.P+
opwae iruwita me onani engorangan meg me yeiyi Lu 9:12 1976
turn behind+1P.INC.POS & search place+3P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell & eat
send the people away so that they may go to the dwelling places and towns around and about us and look for their places for staying and food

93.

a oiyangen kamie oaeoumiengin yaiyor mungana serpent Lu 10:19 1976
1S.DEP give.to+VNI+PERF 2P.OBJ strong+2P.POS+CONS tread NEII+MED.P serpent
I have given to you your authority to tread upon serpents

94.

mwa omag ko romiengin metuwa murana
2P.DEP FAC+expire COMM bones+2P.POS+VNI+CONS go.in+DIR9+to NEII+CL30[3]+MED
met oror oroero Lu 13:24 1976
eye+CONS wall narrow
strain your bones for entering into the narrow door

95.

mwe [sic; mwa] oiya ko ngabuna eoning toworangan ore ame me
2P.DEP give.to COMM E+ANIM.P+MED AB+young opportunity+3P.POS+VNI+CONS come to+me &
mwa eo rewin ura Lu 18:16 1976
2P.DEP NEG hinder 3P.OBJ
give the children their opportunity to come to me and do not hinder them

96.

oiyangen ngabuna oaeourangen eke ura ngain God John 1:12 1976
give.to+PERF E+ANIM.P+MED strong+3P.POS+VNI act.as 3P.OBJ child+CONS God
he has given them their power to become sons of God

97.

bwe a nuwawen bwe a nim gadauw a kamie atangomiengin meg
for 1S.DEP go+PERF for 1S.DEP MOD prepare to 2P.OBJ place+2P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell
emwarin John 14:2 1976
INDF+CL23[22]
for I am now going so that I should prepare for you a place for you to dwell

98.

eimwi medenamangen baiwong Cos Ac 21:1 1976
straight path+1P.EXC+VNI+CONS reach Cos
our path for reaching Cos was straight

99.

bwe re nim oduwen aeōrañ in ðeōgida gaiūra eow itūrin Gott Ac 23:12
for 3P.DEP MOD CAUS+truth word+3P.POS+VNI CONS place woe+3P.POS DIR by+3S.POS God
so that they should bear witness to their words for their being cursed by God/their words for God to curse them

100.

ura ngura re tuk redo eow ina atangorangan meg Ac 23:32 1976

3P.IND E+3P.IND 3P.DEP yet return DIR there place+3P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell
they returned there to their [soldiers'] quarters

101.

tsin ia re teñ pōpanō bwa aña Phariseār ion ñaga ñea egade

COND 3P.DEP want speak+RED+1S.OBJ for 1S.IND Pharisee INDF TEMP+MED E+MED AB+sect

ñea togit oaio eat dedemañ it taramawir Ac 26:5

E+MED end+CONS strong on+3S.POS ways+1P.EXC.POS+VNI CONS worship

when they wish to relate of me that I was a Pharisee at that time which was a very strict sect in our manner of worship

102.

e nim goro deideimiengin eke aibwetin ⁴⁴ burioumie me ian ta aikwen

3S.DEP MOD clear ways+2P.POS+VNI+CONS act.as one+CL7[18/19] innards+2P.POS & in+3S.POS only one

amie kamarar 1Co 1:10 1976

GPOS+2P.POS think

it should be clear your manner of making your hearts one and in just one your thoughts/your being of one heart and mind should be clear

103.

adaga etimine oaeourangin riring wunder memag ngabuna? 1Co 12:29[30] 1976

TAG 3S.DEP+exist strong+3P.POS+VNI+CONS do wonder all E+ANIM.P+MED

does there exist their power to perform wonders all of those ones? /do all of them have the authority to perform miracles?

104.

bitune oagimangin meg ngea bwain eat eb 2Co 5:1 1976

NEIII+PROX house+1P.EXC.POS+VNI+CONS dwell E+MED object+CONS on+3S.POS AB+land

our earthly house for dwelling

105.

tekeiy deideimiengin eotogin meg iat etarabwa

like manner+2P.POS+VNI+CONS NEG+end+CONS dwell in+3S.POS AB+obedience

ngago me ngago earuweiy Phil 2:12 1976

TEMP+DIST & TEMP+DIST past.times

according to your ceaseless obedient manner of living from times long past

106.

bwe enim ranga amie kamarar me annumie

for 3S.DEP+MOD keep GPOS+2P.POS think and Spirit+2P.POS CONS

me tuwomiengin meg in eo dogedog 1Thes 5:23 1976

& FLESH+2p.poss+VNI+CONS dwell CONS NEG harm

so that your thoughts and spirit and flesh reside in safety

107.

bwe mwaim eo par in oiya burioumie toworangan oruwiruwo me in omiow

for 2P.DEP+MOD NEG quick CONS give.to innards+2P.POS opportunity+3P.POS+VNI+CONS FAC+shake & CONS FAC+FEAR

kamie 2Thes 2:2 1976

2p.OBJ

so that you may not quickly allow your hearts to be shaken and make you to fear

108.

ngabuna eamen opwer aeorangin swear 1Ti 1:10 1976

E+ANIM.P+MED AB+person pervert word+3P.POS+VNI+CONS swear

those ones who pervert their oath/ perjurer themselves

109.

tekeiy ngaga eo riring ngana ia t'eo eat angoget swear (ngabuna inon
like TEMP+MED NEG do E+MED.P COND only+NEG on+3S.POS AB+word+CONS swear E+ANIM.P+MED others

uranget priest ngaga bet ekeow angogorangan swear) He 7:20,21 1976

3P.IND+VNI+PERF priest TEMP+MED also be.not+DIR word+3P.POS+VNI+CONS swear

like that time when those things were not performed except by an oath (those others became priests when there were no oaths of theirs ,
i.e. without an oath on their part)

110.

ougan toworangan gona pumwen aura ukwiy 2Pe 2:13 1976

be.so+PERF opportunity+3P.POS+VNI+CONS able reward+CONS GPOS+3P.POS deceit

their turn to get the payment of their deceit has been like this

111.

ian aura omwan wong buriourangan gona imin 2Pe 2:14 1976

in+3S.POS GPOS+3P.POS FAC+wise SUCC innards+3P.POS+VNI+CONS able AB+thing

by their influencing the hearts of those getting things ("beguiling unstable souls" KJV)

112.

enim oten naga deideimiengin meg ngea ebum 2Pe 3:11 1976

3S.DEP+MOD how directly manner+2P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell E+MED 3S.DEP+holy

your manner of living that is holy should be how

113.

iat deideiurangan meg Re 2:ftn 1

in+3S.POS manner+2P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell

in their manner of living

114.

mũñana amen ñan etsimor rō quaño⁴² bōrañ in òeta Re 4:8

NEII+MEDM.P man.for E+MED.P+ 3S.DEP+exist 3P.DEP CAUS+six arm+3P.POS+VNI CONS fly

those living men they had six wings each

115.

aden bwe inan ogoro n ebwakura ngabuna ranorangan tiyo

until for UNR 3S.DEP+clear CON S number+3P.POS E+ANIM.P+MED branch+3P.POS+VNI+CONS serve

me ngabuna idiedura Re 6:11 1976

& E+ANIM.P+MED sibling+RED+3P.POS

until the number of their fellow slaves and their brothers will be complete

116.

ri nan ogok oaeourangan eke ura iking ean ta

3P.DEP UNR receive power+3P.POS+VNI+CONS act.as 3P.OBJ AB+king on+3S.POS only

aikwet aua Re 17:12 1976

one AB+hour

they receive their authority to become kings for one hour

117.

ri nan oiya bita imin ogokoro oaeoura me

3P.DEP UNR give.to NEIII+MED AB+thing run+RED power+3P.POS &

angogorangan opwat imin Re 17:13 1976

word+3P.POS+VNI+CONS speak AB+thing

they will give to the wild beast their strength and their words for speaking things

118.

eiyyen engorangan meg ngabuna eanni ebaka Re 18:2 1976

3S.IND+PERF place+3P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell E+ANIM.P+MED AB+spirit 3S.DEP+bad

and she has become a dwelling place of demons

119.

anga ranom ngawe me ranorangan tiyo ngabuna idiedum Re 19:10 1976

1S.IND branch+2S.POS E+2S.IND & branch+3P.POS+VNI+CONS serve E+ANIM.P+MED sibling+RED+2S.POS

I am your fellow servant the fellow servant of your brothers

120.

inan timine engorangan meg ina tekeiy ewina ura Re 21:ftn12 1976

UNR exist place+3P.POS+VNI+CONS dwell there like fitting.to 3P.OBJ

they will have there their place of dwelling as befits them

121.

amäbuna ran aquona⁴⁵ ro warawar me ro katakateij⁴⁶

male+ANIM.P+MED branch+CONS vessel+MED 3P.DEP cry.out & 3P.DEP CAUS+one+CL11[7]+RED

aäörañ in opum ägen ñabuna wañara gott Nuw 68:2

word+3P.POS+VNI CONS FAC+holy name+CONS E+ANIM.P+MED RPOS+3P.POS god

the crew of the vessel cried out and each one spoke a word of extolling the name of their gods

9.3. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Construct Particle ‘in’ after final vowel.

There are also at least one recorded instance of a final vowel triggering the velar nasal intrusion.

Example:

122

r abumitañ⁴⁷ in mäg inna, bue re nüm detaro Nuw82:1

3P.DEP NP+CL5[11]+ten+VNI CONS dwell there for 3P.DEP MOD pray

they ten days for staying there in order to pray/they remained there ten days in order to pray

10. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with plural independent pronouns, plural general and relative possessive classifiers, and plural gerundives (non-obligatory) .

123

aūrañ abi John 11:53 their slaying him

aūrañ obweni Matt 2:16 their years

124

mwang ouge Lu 12:54, 55;21:31; John 4:20;13:13;1Co 3:4

mwang abi Lu 19:27;Ac 3:15 you slew

mwang edetow John 7:22 1976 you cut

mwang ouga John 13:13;Ga 6:2 1976 you say so

ñea amwañ ogiten kaibarei Ac 2:36 the one whom you have crucified

125

amañ örrren Matt 2:2 we have already come

amañ ömaran Matt 27:63 we recall

amang ouge John 8:48;Ac 21:14 1976 we said

amañ üge John 8:48 we said

amañ aia Ac 5:23 we saw

amañ ibaen Ac 24:6 we seized him

amañ aijibüm ina Ac 28:12 we remained there three days

126

ataga naga ougan kaniañämien eow itürin amea demoniba nenne? NG29

why directly be.so+PERF look+to+VNI+2P.GER+VNI DIR by+3S.POS male+MED lord yesterday

why then so strangely the being looked at you by the Lord yesterday/why then have you been looked at so strangely by the Lord yesterday? NG29

11. Velar Nasal Intrusion associated with the Gerundive in association with the adposition 'ea', 'a'.

When a verb is associated with the adposition 'ea,a' and the gerundive suffixes together, there is an alternative form that includes the velar nasal intrusion, i.e.

V + a + gerundive suffix, in free alternation with

V + a + VNI + gerundive suffix

Example:

pan + a + än NG28

speak + to + 3S.GER

its being said to him, its being told to him

in free alternation with

pan + a + ñ + än NG28

speak + to + VNI + 3S.GER

its being said to him, its being told to him

Kayser in his *Nauru Grammar* provides an example of the free alternation in such cases:

Table 6 . Kayser's example of Velar Nasal Intrusion and the Gerundive (adapted from NG28,29).

	Simple	VNI	Examples	Meaning
Singular 1 st	aäö	aňäö	panaäö panaňäö	its being said to me, its being told to me
	variant			
	a me äö			
Singular 2 nd	aäm	aňäm	panaäm panaňäm	its being said to you its being told to you
	variant		panauwäm	
	a uw äm			
Singular 3 rd	aän	aňän	panaän panaňän	its being said to him/her/it its being told to him/her/it
Dual 1 st Exc	aämar	aňämar	panämar panaňämar	its being said to us (Dual Exclusive) its being told to us (Dual Exclusive)
1 st Inc	aätar	aňätar	panätar panaňätar	its being said to us (Dual Inclusive) its being told to us (Dua Inclusive)
Dual 2 nd	aämürör	aňämürör	panaämürör panaňämürör	Its being said to you (Dual) Its being told to you (Dual)
Dual 3 rd	aäörör	aňäörör	panaäörör panaňäörör	Its being said to them (Dual) Its being told to them (Dual)
Trial 1 st Exc	aämeij	aňämeij	panaämeij panaňämeij	its being said to us (Trial Exclusive) its being told to us (Trial Exclusive)
1 st Inc	aäteij	aňäteij	panaäteij panaňäteij	its its being said to us (Trial Inclusive) its being told to us (Trial Inclusive)
Trial 2 nd	aämiej	aňämiej	panaämiej panaňämiej	Its being said to you (Trial) Its being told to you (Trial)
Trial 3 rd	aäöreij	aňäöreij	panaäöreij panaňäöreij	Its being said to them (Tral) Its being told to them (Trial)
Plural 1 st Exc	aäma	aňäma	panaäma panaňäma	its being said to us (Plural Exclusive) its being told to us(Plural Exclusive)
Plural 1 st Inc	aäta	aňäta	panaäta panaňäta	its being said to us (Plural Inclusive) its being told to us (Plural Inclusive)
Plural 2 nd	aämie	aňämie	panaämie panaňämie	Its being said to you (Plural) its being told to you (Plural)
Plural 3 rd	aäöra	aňäöra	panaäöra panaňäöra	Its being said to them (Plural) Its being told to them (Plural)

127

ataga naga ougan kaniahämien' eow itürin amea demoniba nenne? NG29

why directly be.so+PERF look+to+VNI+2P.GER+VNI DIR by+3S.POS male+MED lord yesterday
why then so strangely the being looked at you by the Lord yesterday/why then have you been looked at so strangely by the Lord
yesterday? NG29

Note: ä = e/ã ; ħ = ng/ñ

Origin of the Velar Nasal Intrusion.

This consonant epenthesis may have arisen with the 3rd person singular form of the adposition 'ea, a' when followed by the Perfective Aspect suffix in order to disambiguate the sound combination, as the vowel sequence in itself is not disallowed in Nauruan. However, without the velar nasal intrusion, the sequence could be misunderstood as a form of the General Possessive Classifier, i.e. :

Adposition 'a' + '-en' > *aen

General Possessive Classifier 'a-' + 3rd singular possessive suffix '-n' > 'aen'

('aen' is a recorded form, and the precursor to the modern form 'an')

This then spread by analogy to the other forms, and eventually spread to the closely sounding Construct Particle, and, again by analogy, to any word-final vowel in contact with a following vowel.

13. Table of Classifiers

Classifier Number (<i>Nauru Grammar</i> Classifier number in brackets)	Classifier form and meaning
1(16)	ae [a'æ] piece of flat things, patch
2(17)	baño/bango [bʌŋo] part of long object
3(8)	be [be] coconut leaf
4(10)	bōke/boge [b'əge] body of fresh water
5(11)	būmi/bumi [bʌmi] night/24 hour day
6(32)	b ^w ere [bwere] content of basket, basketful
7(19/18)	bwetsi/bweti~ mwetsi/mweti [bweitʰi~bweiʒi/ mweitʰi~mweiʒi] long flexible objects
8(34)	dume [duume] content of wrapping, package, container
9(20)	ea [e'æ] fourth part of fish
10(15)	ebe/äbe [ebe] land

11(7)	eiji/eiyi [e3i] words
12(5)	eo [eio] trough-shaped objects
13(12)	ga [gʌ] reef fissures
14(24)	ga [gæ] bundle of drinking-water shells
15(13)	ime [ime] shelters
16(38)	in [iin] content of coconut-fibre wrappings
17(35)	ine [iine] content of leaf- wrappings
18(14)	ire [ire] single hair/feather/leaf/fibre
19(36)	iwi [iwi] contents of fish—nets
20(21)	ke/kā [ke] small part
21(4)	mae [m'ai] long rigid objects
22(25)	mage [mʌge] groups
23(22)	mwari [mʷʌrʰi] larger piece, large part of an object

24(26)	mwe/mwo [m ^w ə] fruits growing in clusters
25(31)	mweiyi [m ^w ei3i] heaps of excrement
26(27)	ñe/nge [ŋe] kinds, species
27(6)	oe/oä [o ^w e] plants, vegetation
28(37)	pañi/pangi [paŋi] content of reef-hollows
29(30)	powi [po ^w i] heap, collections
30(3)	ra [r ^h æ] objects conceived of as presenting a flat surface
31(28)	re/rä [rre] row, string of objects
32(29)	dete/tete [rere] layer, pedigree, GENeration
33(9)	wa [wa] long flexible parts
34(33)	wime [wiime] content of leaf baskets for small fish
35(23)	wõri/wori [wɔri] number of times
36(39)	wũri/wuri [wiri] content of open- mouthed receptacle

14. Notes

¹ - Nauru Congregational Church 1887 – 1987, p 12.

² - (1) Pacific Islands Monthly, Vol. 11, No. 4, p 21; (2) Father Alois Kayser and the Recent History of the Nauruan language, *in* Nauru Grammar by Alois Kayser MSC, edited by Karl H.M. Rensch (p I – XIII). Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, ACT, Australia. 1993.

³ - (1) Chiefs of Baitsi, Papers of Camilla Wedgwood, National Library of Australia; (2) Nauru Detudamo 17.II.35, p 10. Papers of Camilla Wedgwood, National Library of Australia.

⁴ – ‘Micronesian’ in this paper is used to describe the group of languages sharing the same common ancestor language that developed from the earlier ancestor language referred to as ‘Proto-Oceanic’ – itself a descendent of the original ancestor language referred to as ‘Proto-Austronesian’. The major member languages of the Micronesian group of languages are (alphabetically): Carolinian, Chuukese-Mortlockese, Kiribati, Kosraean, Marshallese, Mwokilese, Nauruan, Pingelapese, Pohnpeian, Puluwatese, Satawalese, Sonsorolese, Ulithian, and Woleaian.

Micronesian, used as a cultural/geographic area, includes (in addition to the above):

- (a) the people of Belau, and the Chamorro people of Guam and the Mariana Islands (the languages of these two peoples are more closely related to the languages of the Philippines, and these two peoples appear to have been in-situ far longer than any of the other groups);
- (b) the people of Yap (who predated the arrival of the peoples now speaking the Micronesian group of languages, but whose language descended from Proto-Oceanic);
- (c) the people of the atolls of Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro, who are members of the Polynesian group of languages (also descended from Proto-Oceanic), who are more recent neighbours.

⁵ - Another contributory factor to the change in Nauruan culture and language stability must be attributed to the cruelty perpetrated against the Nauruan people by the Imperial Japanese Forces during the 2nd World War.

At the outbreak of the war in 1940 the Nauruan people numbered 1800 (Report to the Council of the League of Nations on the Administration of Nauru during the year 1940, page 25).

Following the invasion and occupation of Nauru by the Imperial Japanese Forces on 26th August 1942, a horrendous situation befell the Nauruans. Mistreatment and food shortages

were daily sufferings until liberation by the Australian armed forces on 13th September 1945 (Tanaka 2010).

This was compounded by the forced removal of 1200 Nauruans to the Chuuk archipelago in 1943 where mistreatment and starvation resulted in a 38% fatality rate. The gatekeepers of Nauruan custom were decimated: the 1933 Census enumerated 65 Nauruans aged 60 years and above (4 % of the population of 1540). By 1948, out of 1448 Nauruans only 15 Nauruans (1%) were aged 60 years and above (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics Bulletin No.7, 1934; Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations 1949).

⁶ - In my own idiolect of English (south-east England) I have a tendency - in fast speech at least – to supply an epenthetic [ɹ] sound between words where the first word ends in a vowel sound and the second word begins in a vowel sound. Many others in my part of England do this too. How this arose, I have no idea, as in slow, deliberate speech this sound is lacking, so it is not to do with unacceptable sequences of vowels.

⁷ – ‘a’, ‘1st Person Singular, Dependent’, ‘I’ (Example 1).

Nauruan Personal Pronouns.

Dependent forms are attached to verbs or pre-verbal particles to indicate the ‘subject’ of the verb phrase.

Independent and Emphatic pronouns are used for emphasis and contrast, and there is a certain overlap with the two forms.

Objective forms are used for direct and indirect object and in reflexive verbs constructions. In reflexive verb constructions, the 3rd person singular is usually the Emphatic form, or is omitted.

The indirect objective form, 1st person singular, is irregular – ‘me’ .

In the 1918 Bible both 1st Person Dual Inclusive Dependent Pronoun and 3rd Person Plural Dependent Pronoun are spelt ‘ar’; there is, however, a difference in vowel quality.

Table 7. Nauruan Personal Pronouns

Nauruan Personal Pronouns						
	Person	Function				
Number		Dependent	Independent	Emphatic	Objective	Possessive (suffixed)
Singular	1 st	a	aña / anga	naña / nanga	õ,eõ / o,eo	ũ / u - õ / o
					Indirect	
					me	
	2 nd	wo	auwe / awe	ñauwe / ngawe	uw	m
	3 rd	e	ei / eiy	ñei / ngeiy	- (zero)	n
Dual	1 st inclusive	ar* [ær]	adar / attar	ñadar / ngattar	gadar / kattar	dar/ tar
	1 st exclusive	mar	amar	ñamar / ngamar	gamar / kamar	mar
	2 nd	amwar / mwar	amūrōr / amuror	ñamūrōr/ngamuror	gamūrōr/kamuror	mūrōr/muror
	3 rd	ar* / or [ʌr]	ūrōr/uror	ñūrōr/nguror	ūrōr / uror	rōr / ror
Trial	1 st inclusive	eij / eiy	adei / atteiy	ñadei / ngatteiy	gadei / katteiy	dei / tteiy
	1 st exclusive	mei / meiy	amei / ameiy	ñamei / ngameiy	gamei / kameiy	mei / meiy
	2 nd	amwei / mweiy	amiei amieiy	ñamiei / ngamieiy	gamiei / kamieiy	miei / mieiy
	3 rd	arei / areiy	ūrei / ureiy	ñūrei / ngureiy	ūrei/ureiy	rei / reiy
Plural	1 st inclusive	añ / ang	ada / atta	ñada / ngatta	gada / katta	da / tta
	1 st exclusive	ama/ ma	ama	ñama ngama	gama kama	ma
	2 nd	amwa / mwa	amiã / amie	ñamiã / ngamie	gamiã / kamie	miã / mie
	3 rd	re	ūra / ura	ñūra / ngura	ūra / ura	ra

⁸ – - ‘*amerumena*’, ‘*those two males/men there*’ (Example 4).

This is a late augmented form derived from the Animate Demonstrative Numeral set.

This is gender-specific, for males only. This set of demonstratives is not used as a relativizer, only as a demonstrative adjective or demonstrative pronoun.

Table 8. Male Demonstrative Numeral.

Number	Degree of Proximity	Simple (Base) Form, Animate Demonstrative Numeral	Augmented Form
two males	Proximal	rumene	amerumene
	Medial	rumena	amerumena
	Distal	rumeno	amerumeno
three males	Proximal	yimene/ijimene	ametiylimene/ametsijimene
			Syncopated form
			ametimene/ametsimene
	Medial	yimena/ijimena	ametiylimena/ametsijimena
			Syncopated form
			ametimena/ametsimena
	Distal	yimeno/ijimeno	ametiylimeno/ametsijimeno
			Syncopated form
			ametimeno/ametsimeno

The base is *'amen'*, *'male for, male associated with...'*

As suggested in Hambruch 1914:25, *'amen'* is here analyzed as a syncope, historically, of *'amea'* [that male] + *'in'* [Construct Particle].

'amen' in the demonstrative and numeral setting originally included humans and non-human living beings, animate beings. At some stage these base forms were expanded to specify gender, which resulted in the Augmented Male and Augmented Female forms.

Composition:

'ru'- two + *'amen'* human, animate being > *rumen-*

'iyi' three + *'amen'* > *iyimen-*

'a' four + *'amen'* > *amen-*

When the development of gender specific demonstrative numerals occurred, *'amen'* was prefixed to these forms for males, and *'en'* (female, woman) was prefixed to these forms for females, i.e. :

amen + rumen- > *amerumen-* (rhotic regressive assimilation process)

en + rumen- > *erumen-* (rhotic regressive assimilation process)

amen + iyimen >

ameniyimen >

ametiymen- (denasalization process) >

ametimen- (syncope)

en + iyimen- >

eniyimen >

etiyimen- (denasalization process) >

etimen- (syncope)

⁹ - *'amea'*, *'that male there/that man there'* (Example 5).

This form is taken from the Male Singular Demonstrative set. They are not used as relativizers, only as a demonstrative adjective or a demonstrative pronoun .

Table 9: Male Singular Demonstrative.

Degree of Proximity	Simple form	Syncopated Form	English gloss
Proximal	ametune	amune	this male here
Medial	[*ametuna]	ameta	that male there
		Syncopated form	
		amea	
Distal	ametuno	amuno	that male yonder

The base is ‘*amen*’, ‘*male for, male associated with...*’

As suggested in Hambruch 1914:25, ‘*amen*’ is here analyzed as a syncope, historically, of ‘*amea*’ [that male] + ‘*in*’ [construct particle].

It is likely that *ametune/ameta/ametuno* arose in an earlier stage of Nauruan in one of two ways.

- (1) *amen* was joined to the basic demonstratives *une/una/uno* with the construct suffix *in*, and then by denasalization and syncope the current form resulted, i.e.

amen + in + une > amen in une > ametin une > ametune

If this process was the one that occurred, the missing medial form **ametuna* can be explained by referencing the recorded form *ameta*. So,

amen + in + una > amenin una > ametin una > ametuna

ametuna then undergoes syncope:

ametuna > ameta

and *ameta* undergoes further syncope:

ameta > amea

or

- (2) *amen* was juxtaposed to the augmented forms of the basic demonstratives, followed by denasalization and diphthong ‘simplification’, i.e.

amen + eune > ametune

From these fused forms syncopation occurred, i.e.

ametune > amune

if this was the process, one still arrives at the untested form **ametuna*:

amen + euna > ametuna

which, by syncope, becomes *ameta*.

¹⁰ – ‘*äben*’, Indefinite Pronoun for Classifier 10[15] ‘*ebe*’, for land (Example 5)

The General Indefinite Pronoun is ‘*ion*’ [ɿon, jon, jon], ‘*an*, *a*’. Over time, Nauruan developed indefinite pronouns incorporating the classifiers.

‘*äben/eben*’ is the Indefinite Pronoun for Classifier 10[15] ‘*ebe*’, for land.

Classifier 10[15] is only used for pieces of land, parcels of land, plots of land, not for a land mass.

The indefinite Pronoun usually follows the noun it governs, and the noun invariably bears the Absolute Marker/Nominal Prefix.

All classificatory indefinite pronouns follow the same pattern:

‘*e-*’ prefix, probably from same origin as the absolute marker/nominal prefix ‘*e-*’

+

Classifier

+

‘*-n*’ probably a fossilized construct suffix

¹¹ - ‘*oij’añet ärumena agän*’, ‘*then gave (it/them) to his two wives*’ (Example 6).

A feature of Nauruan phonology is denasalization. The general rule is that word final *-n* undergoes denasalization before a high vowel (*e/i*).

In ‘*oij’añet*’, the final /n/ of ‘*oij’añen*’ undergoes denasalization as it is followed by the high vowel /e/ or ‘*ärumena*’.

This is not seen universally, which may be due to as-yet-unknown factors having to do with stress contours, sentence interruption, free variation, or other factors.

¹² ‘ärumena’, ‘those two females there/those two women there’ (Example 6).

This is a late augmented form derived from the Animate Demonstrative Numeral set.

This is gender-specific, for females only. This set of demonstratives is not used as a relativizer only as a demonstrative adjective or a demonstrative pronoun.

Table 10. Female Demonstrative Numeral.

Number	Degree of Proximity	Simple (Base) Form, Animate Demonstrative Numeral	Augmented Form
two females	Proximal	rumene	erumene/äirumene
	Medial	rumena	erumena/äirumena
	Distal	rumeno	erumeno/äirumeno
three females	Proximal	yimene/ijimene	etiyimene/etsijimene
			Syncopated form
			etimene/etsimene
	Medial	yimena/ijimena	atiyimena/etsijimena
			Syncopated form
			etimena/etsimena
	Distal	yimeno/ijimeno	etiyimeno/etsijimeno
			Syncopated form
			etimeno/etsimeno

The base is *'amen'*, *'male for, male associated with...'*

As suggested in Hambruch 1914:25, *'amen'* is here analyzed as a syncope, historically, of *'amea'* [that male] + *'in'* [construct particle].

'amen' in the demonstrative and numeral setting originally included humans and non-human living beings, animate beings. At some stage these base forms were expanded to identify gender, which resulted in the Augmented Male and Augmented Female forms.

Composition:

'ru'- two + *'amen'* human, animate being > *rumen-*

'iyi' three + *'amen'* > *iyimen-*

'a' four + *'amen'* > *amen-*

When the development of gender specific demonstrative numerals occurred, *'amen'* was prefixed to these forms for males, and *'en'* (female, woman) was prefixed to these forms for females, i.e. :

amen + rumen- > *amerumen-* (rhotic regressive assimilation process)

en + rumen- > *erumen-* (rhotic regressive assimilation process)

amen + iyimen >

ameniyimen >

ametiymen- (denasalization process) >

ametimen- (syncope)

en + iyimen- >

eniyimen >

etiyimen- (denasalization process) >

etimen- (syncope)

¹³ – *'agän'*, *'spouse+3S.POS'* (Example 6), *'his wife/her husband'* (Example 6).

Nauruan nouns do not bear inherent gender or number. Where the gender needs to be specified this is done by the use of an appropriate demonstrative. Number is not necessarily specified, unless the context requires it.

¹⁴ - *'ñarumen aget äirumena ñain'*, *'those two animate being who were husbands of those two women, his daughters'* (Example 7).

'ñarumen' is from the Animate Demonstrative Numeral set. This set can be used as a demonstrative adjective, or a demonstrative pronoun, or as a relativizer. When used as a relativizer, the medial form usually appears without the final vowel *'a'*, as in this case.

Table 11. Animate Demonstrative Numerals.

Number	Degree of Proximity	Simple Form	Emphatic <i>nga/ña</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>min/bin</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>mu/mũ</i> Form
two	Proximal	rumene	ngarumene/ ñarumene	minrumene/ minirumene	murumene/ mũrumene
	Medial	rumena	ngarumena/ ñarumena	minrumena/ minirumena	murumena/ mũrumena
	Distal	rumeno	ngarumeno/ ñarumeno	minrumeno/ minirumeno	murumeno/ mũrumeno
three	Proximal	yimene/ijimene/ imene	ngaiyimene/ ñaiyimene	miniyimene/ minijimene	mwiyimene/ mũijimene
	Medial	yimena/ijimena/ imena	ngaiyimena/ ñaiyimena	miniyimena/ minijimena	muiyimena/ mũijimena
	Distal	yimeno/ijimeno/ imeno	ngaiyimeno/ ñaiyimeno	miniyimeno/ minijimeno	muijimeno/ mũijimeno
Four	Proximal	amene	ngamene/ ñamene	minamene	muamene/ mũamene
	Medial	amena	ngamena/ ñamena	minamena	muamena/ mũamena
	Distal	ameno	ngameno/ ñameno	minameno	muameno/ mũameno

¹⁵ – ‘*mõ õ kania*’, ‘and he then looked’ (Example 8).

There are inconsistencies in both the 1918 and 1976 orthographies. At times the orthographies represent the underlying elements in a phrase, and at other times the orthographies represent a more phonetic representation of the phrase.

‘*me*’, ‘*and*’; ‘*bwe*’, ‘*for*’; ‘*ta*’, ‘*only*’; ‘*wo*’, ‘2nd person singular dependent pronoun’; and ‘*re*’, ‘3rd person plural dependent pronoun’, regularly undergo vowel deletion when the

following element begins with a vowel, but there is no consistency in the orthographies.

'me', *'and'*; *'bwe'*, *'for'*; *'ta'*, *'only'* are often written with a 'dummy' vowel as in this instance, i.e. : *'mō ō kania'* represents *'m'ō kania'*.

In Example 9, *'mo oija'*, I understand to represent *'m'oija'*, and *'me e eken'* to represent *'m'eken'*.

¹⁶ the dependent personal pronouns written *'ō'* (3rd Person Singular) and *'rō'* (3rd Person Plural, I understand to be weaneked forms of *'e'* and *'re'*.

¹⁷ – When a verb is at the head of a verb phrase, unless otherwise indicated, it has a default 3rd person subject. At times the orthographies overcompensate by signalling an underlying 3rd person subject by inserting a dummy vowel.

¹⁸ – *'oniñ ia'*, *'that child'* (Example 9).

'ia' is from the General Demonstrative set.

Nauruan has developed a series of prefixes that are added to the General (basic) Demonstratives. These were later expanded to produce fused forms with the classifiers.

There is one emphatic prefix *'nga/ñā'*, and there are three non-emphatic prefixes:

min, mit

bit

mu/mũ

I consider that Nauruan incorporated the Emphatic Prefix *'nga/ñā'* into its demonstrative and personal pronoun system at an early period. The *'nga/ñā'* element is found in disparate parts of the Oceanic family (Kiribati, North Ambrym, Mekeo among others) as an emphasizing or focusing element.

Later, the word *'min'* – *'thing'*, was incorporated into the demonstrative system (the Micronesian language of Satawal has also developed a series of demonstratives incorporating *min* – thing). *'mit'* is the form produced through the phonological process of denasalization.

I consider *'bit'* to be a later development of *'mit'* through the phonological process of pre-stopping.

I consider *'mu/mũ'* to be the last development as it is fused with the emphatic forms of the general plural demonstratives and this prefix then spread to the classifiers.

All of the demonstratives with emphatic or non-emphatic prefixes have a range of uses,

from an almost-neutral function, to a demonstrative adjective, to acting as what approximates to a definite article, or as a demonstrative pronoun, or as a relativizer. When used as a relativizer it usually lacks the spatial suffix ending. The simple forms are post nominal and are only used in a demonstrative adjective function. There is some indication that the emphatic forms were used for new information in a discourse as well as for focus, while the non-emphatic forms were used for previously introduced topics in a discourse. Kayser's labels – Nominative for the emphatic, and Accusative for the non-emphatic – are confusing (NG31).

there are augmented forms in the singular proximal and distal forms of the general demonstratives and their emphatic equivalents. Kayser (NG31) assigns the augmented forms only to living beings, but the recorded usage is both to animate and inanimate subjects.

There are also some syncopated forms for the '*min*' and '*mu*' classes. The '*min*' syncopated forms are in current usage, the '*mu*' syncopated forms appear to be obsolescent but are given by Kayser (NG31).

The classificatory demonstratives are used with single objects only, plural objects use the plural general demonstratives.

Table 12. General Demonstrative.

Number	Degree of Proximity	Simple Form	Emphatic <i>nga/ña</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>min/bin</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>mu/mũ</i> Form
Singular	Proximal	une	ngune/ñune	mitune, bitune	No form
	Proximal Syncopated	No form	No form	tune	No form
	Proximal Augmented	eune/iune	ngaeune/ñaiune	No form	No form
	Medial	ia	ngea/ñea	mituna	No form
	Medial Syncopated	No form	No form	mita, bita	No form
	Medial Augmented	No form	No form	No form	No form
	Distal	uno	nguno/ñuno	mituno, bituno	No form

	Distal Syncopated	No form	No form	tuno	No form
	Distal Augmented	euno/iuno	ngaeuno/ñaiuno	No form	No form
Plural	Proximal	ane	ngane/ñane	minane	mungane/ mũñane
	Proximal Syncopated	No form	No form	mane	mũñe
	Medial	ana	ngana/ñana	minana	mungana/ mũñana
	Medial Syncopated	No form	No form	mana	mũña
	Distal	ano	ngano/ñano	minano	mungano/ mũñano
	Distal Syncopated	No form	No form	mano	mũño

Table 13: Some Satawalese 'min' demonstratives (adapted from Roddy 2007:67).

<i>min-</i> + demonstrative	Meaning
min-ne	something proximal to speaker, in view of speaker and hearer
min-na	something distal to the hearer, in view of speaker and hearer
min-i-we	a definite object in mind but not in view of speaker or addressee
min-i-ka or mini-kka	de-emphasized objects near speaker
min-aan	that which is over there

In this study, NEI refers to ‘*min*’ forms, NEII refers to ‘*mu*’ Forms, and NEIII refers to ‘*bin*’ forms.

¹⁹ – – *ãita* [eĩtá], ‘*the female there, that female*’ (Example 9).

This is a syncopated form of the fused gender specific medial demonstrative ‘*eituna/ãituna*’.

The Female Singular Demonstrative set is made up of the element *en/ãn* [éĩn]– ‘*female, woman*’, fused to the simple forms of the General Demonstrative set (see Table 12). This set is not used as a relativizer, only as a demonstrative adjective or demonstrative pronoun.

Table 14: Female Singular Demonstrative.

Degree of Proximity	Simple form	Syncopated form	English gloss
Proximal	eitune, ãitune	Unattested	this female here
Medial	eituna, ãituna	eita, ãita	that female there
Distal	eituno, ãituno	Unattested	that female yonder

²⁰ – The 1918 Bible at times uses ‘dummy’ vowels for orthographic purposes. When a verb is at the head of a verb phrase, unless otherwise indicated, it has a default 3rd person subject. At times the orthography overcompensates by signalling an underlying 3rd person subject by inserting a dummy vowel.

In this instance (Example 9), ‘*me e eken ñain*’, the ‘*e*’ in ‘*e eken*’ is a ‘dummy’ vowel to indicate that ‘*eken*’ is at the head of the VP and has a 3rd person subject. The spoken form would be ‘*m’eken*’.

²¹ – ‘*enimõ nim*’ (Example 10).

When two consonant meet at a word boundary, Nauruan often interposes an epenthetic vowel. Here ‘*nim*’ meets ‘*nim*’, so I understand the ‘*õ*’ to represent an excrescent schwa vowel for phonotactic reasons. The orthographies in the 1918 Bible and 1976 New Testament do not consistently show the epenthetic vowel, and vary in the vowel that is used to show the schwa (*o, õ, e, i*).

²² – ‘woijeǎn’, ‘cover+PERF’ (Example 10).

The Perfective Aspect suffix is usually written ‘en’ in the 1918 Bible, but here is written ‘ǎn’ presumably because it follows a verb root ending in /e/.

²³ – ‘mijimaǎa mwit dobonara’, ‘those three arrows’ (Example 11).

‘mijimaǎa’ is taken from the Demonstrative Numeral set for Classifier 21[4], ‘ma, mae’, used for long rigid objects.

All of the demonstrative numerals with emphatic or non-emphatic prefixes can be used as demonstrative adjective, demonstrative pronoun, or as a relativizer. When used as a relativizer it usually lacks the spatial suffixes. The simple forms are post nominal and are only used in a demonstrative function.

Table 15. Demonstrative Numeral, Classifier 21[4], ma/mae, long rigid object (adapted from NG44).

		Simple	Emphatic	NEI	NEII
1	Proximal	mane	ǎnmaneǎa	minimane	mǎmanemǎ
	Medial	mana	ǎnmana	minimana	mǎmana
	Distal	mano	ǎnmano	minimano	mǎmano
2	Proximal	rumaǎe	ǎnarumaǎe	minirumaǎe	mǎrumaǎe
	Medial	rumaǎa	ǎnarumaǎa	minirumaǎa	mǎrumaǎa
	Distal	rumaǎo	ǎnarumaǎo	minirumaǎo	mǎrumaǎo
3	Proximal	ijimaǎe	ǎaijimaǎe	minijimaǎe	mǎijimaǎe
	Medial	ijimaǎa	ǎaijimaǎa	minijimaǎa	mǎijimaǎa
	Distal	ijimaǎo	ǎaijimaǎo	minijimaǎo	mǎijimaǎo
4	Proximal	amaǎe	ǎnamaǎe	minamaǎe	mǎamaǎe
	Medial	amaǎa	ǎnamaǎa	minamaǎa	mǎamaǎa
	Distal	amaǎo	ǎnamaǎo	minamaǎo	mǎamaǎo
5	Proximal	maetijimoǎe	ǎnamaetijimoǎe	minimaetijimoǎe	mǎmaetijimoǎe
	Medial	maetijimoǎa	ǎnamaetijimoǎa	minimaetijimoǎa	mǎmaetijimoǎa
	Distal	maetijimoǎo	ǎnamaetijimoǎo	minimaetijimoǎo	mǎmaetijimoǎo
10	Proximal	maetaǎe	ǎnamaetaǎe	minimaetaǎe	mǎmaetaǎe
	Medial	maetaǎa	ǎnamaetaǎa	minimaetaǎa	mǎmaetaǎa
	Distal	maetaǎo	ǎnamaetaǎo	minimaetaǎo	mǎmaetaǎo

Kayser supplies a fuller list – see Appendix 1.

²⁴ – The spatial suffixes spelt *-oa/-oe/-oo* in Kayser’s *Nauru Grammar* are found spelt *-õa* etc in the 1918 Bible; in this study they are interpreted as a diphthong whose first element is a short non-syllabic vowel glide /ɔ/. This diphthong is often spelt in the orthographies as *-we/-wa/wo*.

²⁵ - ‘wõn’ (Example 11). This is the Relative Possessive Classifier, 3rd Person Singular form.

Nauruan, like other Oceanic languages, makes a distinction between the objects and concepts viewed as intimately connected to humans and those less intimately connected.

In Nauruan, things which are considered as an integral part of human existence/experience and cannot be separated from the person fall into the inalienable category. i.e.

Kinship terms body parts
body substances
a person’s spirit, name, and shadow particular cultural objects

Adpositions also follow the inalienable category.

Other nouns are viewed as less bound to humans, the relationship being termed alienable. This duality (inalienable/alienable) is manifested in the Nauruan possessive construction:

Inalienable:

nouns are marked with a direct possession construction with suffixes specifying the possessor being attached to the inalienable noun.

Alienable:

nouns are marked with an indirect possession construction that requires a possessive classifier - with the appropriate possessive suffix - that precedes the alienable noun.

There are two possessive classifiers used in Nauruan alienable possessive phrases:

with the base ‘a’.

This general possessive classifier is used for objects in a relationship of outright possession or “ownership” (NG20); the Nauruan general possessive classifier *a-* seems to reflect Proto-Micronesian **aa*, ‘own or acquire ownership of an alienable object’ (Bender et al. 2003).

with the base ‘wa/wõ’.

This relative possessive classifier is used for “actual use of a thing, the permanent or transitory possession of a thing” (NG20)

Table 16. Basic Template for the Alienable Possessive Phrase.

Function 1 Slot	Function 2 slot	Function 3 Slot	Function 4 Slot
Possessive Classifier	Possessive Suffix referencing Possessor	Possessum	Possessor

Table 17. Relative Possessive Classifier.

Number	1 st person	1 st inclusive	1 st exclusive	2 nd person	3 rd person
Singular	wanga/ wonga/ waña	-----	-----	wam	wan/won/wõn; wanna/wõnõ
Dual	-----	warar/wōrar	wamar/ wōmar	wamuror/ wamūrōr	wongaror/ wōñarōr
Trial	-----	wareiy/warei	wameiy/wam ei	wamieiy/ wamiāi	wangareiy/ wañarei
Plural	-----	wora/wara/ wōra	wama	wamie/wamiā	wangara/ wañara

The Relative Possessive Classifier forms are used also as Possessive Pronouns (NG25). The 3rd Person Singular form ‘wanna/wõnõ’ is only used as a Possessive Pronoun.

26 – ‘tidien’, ‘knows it now; has already known it’ (Example 17).

The Perfective Aspect suffix when attached to most transitive verbs requires a linking vowel /i/ between the verb ending and the aspectual suffix.

²⁷ - ‘*ngaga*’, TEMP+MED, ‘at that time, then (past occurrence), when (past occurrence)’ (Example 17).

The Temporal Markers define the time at which an event occurs.

Like other determiners, the temporal markers have three degrees of proximity.

The proximal form *ngage/ñage* can be translated as ‘at this present time’, ‘now’.

The medial form *ngaga/ñaga* can be translated as ‘at that time’, ‘when (past occurrence)’, ‘then (past occurrence)’

The distal form *ngago/ñago* can be translated as ‘at that time (more distant past)’, ‘when (more remote past occurrence)’, ‘then (more remote past occurrence)’

Table 18. Temporal Markers.

Degree of Proximity	Form
Proximal: ‘at this time’, ‘now’	<i>ngage/ñage</i>
Medial: ‘at that time’, ‘when (past occurrence)’, ‘then (past occurrence)’	<i>ngaga/ñaga</i>
Distal: ‘at that time (more distant past)’, ‘when (more remote past occurrence)’, ‘then (more remote past occurrence)’	<i>ngago/ñago</i>

There is the word ‘*ago*’ that is used in Counterfactual Clauses, and is also used in conjunction with the time adverb *emewara* to convey the idea of a distant past. This would indicate that the time markers above are fused forms of the emphatic prefix ‘*nga/ña*’ with a pre-existing time marker *ag*. There is also an adverb *naga* meaning ‘directly’ (see NG165).

In both the 1918 Bible and the 1976 New Testament, where the temporal marker appears without an apparent spatial suffix (i.e. *ngag/ñag*), this appears to be an orthographical convention to indicate that ‘*ngaga/ñaga*’ TEMP+MED drops its final vowel before a following vowel, examples:

<i>ñag ā</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 1:1</i>
<i>ñag ar</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 19:4</i>
<i>ñag e</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 24:15</i>
<i>ñag A</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 24:45</i>
<i>ñag e</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 25:6</i>
<i>ñag</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 29:8</i>
<i>ñag</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 31:38</i>
<i>ñag e</i>	<i>etistiōk</i>	<i>Ge 37:18</i>
<i>ñag</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 41:50</i>
<i>ñag A</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ge 48:5</i>
<i>ñag</i>	<i>eitsiōk</i>	<i>Ex 1:19</i>

In these cases it is marked TEMP+MED+.

²⁸ – ‘*ngana/ñana*’, ‘*those there*’, ‘*those things there*’ (Example 17).

ngana/ñana is the Emphatic Plural, Medial, form of the General Demonstrative (see Table 13).

However, after verbs of perception it has the rôle of a relativizer, ‘that’.

²⁹ – ‘*omo angen amea ngago eo bet pudu*’, ‘*it had been good had he not been born*’ (Example 19). Literally: ‘it was already good for him when he was still not born’.

Nauruan has several strategies to convey contrafactual clauses. In this sentence we see an infrequent strategy.

It is usual for the Condition to precede the Result, but here the Result precedes the Condition. The presence of the Perfective Aspect suffix in the Result and the presence of a past time referencer in the Condition moves it into a contrafactual setting.

Table 19. Usual Pattern for Contrafactual Clauses.

Contrafactual Condition	Result
ago (ia), or ngago (ia), or kamwen (ngago) ia	nan + V, or V+ Perfective Aspect suffix

³⁰ – ‘ngabuna’, ‘those animate beings there’ (Example 20).

The Animate Plural Marker is *bun/bũn* .

Table 20. Animate Plural Demonstratives.

Degree of Proximity	Simple Form	Emphatic <i>nga/ña</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>min/bin</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>mu/mũ</i> Form
Proximal	bune/bũne	ngabune/ñabũne	minibune/minibũne	mibune/mibũne; mubune/mũbũne
Medial	buna/bũna	ngabuna/ñabũna	minibuna/minibũna	mibuna/mibũna; mubuna/mũbũna
Distal	buno/bũno	ngabuno/ñabũno	minibuno/minibũno	mibuno/mibũno; mubuno/mũbũno

All of these demonstratives, with emphatic or non-emphatic prefixes, can act as demonstrative adjectives or as relativizers. When used as a relativizer it usually lacks the spatial suffixes. The simple forms are post nominal and are only used in a demonstrative or vocative function.

³¹ – ‘an’ (Example 21). This is the General Possessive Classifier, 3rd Person Singular form.

See Note 21 for background.

=

Table 16. BasicTemplate for the Alienable Possessive Phrase

Function 1 Slot	Function 2 slot	Function 3 Slot	Function 4 Slot
Possessive Classifier	Possessive Suffix referencing Possessor	Possessum	Possessor

Table 21. General Possessive Classifier.

Number	1 st person	1 st inclusive	1 st exclusive	2 nd person	3 rd person
Singular	aeo/aeõ; au/aũ	-----	-----	am; aeam/aeõm	an; aen
Dual	-----	attar/adar	amar	amuror/amũrõr	auror/aũrõr
Trial	-----	atteiy/adei	ameiy/amei	amieiy/amiei	aureiy/aũrei
Plural	-----	atta/ada	ama	amie/amiã	aura/aũra

³² – ‘ñarana’, ‘that object presenting a flat surface’ (Example 26).

‘ñarana’ is the Emphatic form of the Medial Demonstrative for Classifier 30[3], objects presenting a flat surface or a hollow aspect.

All demonstratives with emphatic or non-emphatic prefixes can act as demonstrative adjective, demonstrative pronoun, or as relativizer. When used as a relativizer it usually lacks the spatial suffix. The simple forms are post nominal and are only used in a demonstrative function. The classificatory demonstratives are only used for singular objects; for plural objects, the appropriate demonstrative from the General Demonstrative set is used.

Table 22 Demonstratives for Classifier 30[3], ‘ra’, object presenting a flat surface or a hollow aspect.

Degree of Proximity	Simple Form	Emphatic <i>nga/ña</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>min/bin</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>mu/mũ</i> Form
Proximal	rane	ngarane/ñarane	minirane	murane/mũrane
Medial	rana	ngarana/ñarana	minirana	murana/mũrana
Distal	rano	ngarano/ñarano	minirano	murano/mũrano

³³ – ‘ă’ (Example 26) is the orthographic convention for the 3rd person singular dependent pronoun (i.e. ‘e’) in the 1918 Bible to show that the phrase of which it is part does not refer to an identifiable individual, but is indefinite, ‘one, they’, and in the English translation can often best be rendered by passivizing the phrase.

³⁴ – ‘aiworiten’, ‘it is now one time, once’, Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 35[23] (Example 29).

The Cardinal Numeral system overtime developed fused forms that incorporate the classifiers. The low numbers 1 to 4 are fully fused. Above four is a hybrid system.

Table 23. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 35[23], number of times.

Fused form of cardinal numeral Classifier 36[23], 'number of times'	
once, one time	aiworin
twice, two times	aruwori
three times, thrice	aiyuwori
four times	awori

Table 24. Cardinal Numeral Classifier 35[23], number of times, based on numeral particle 'aworin'.

numeral Classifier 36[23], 'number of times'	
five times	aworitiyimo [aworin+aiyimo]
six times	aworin ango
seven times	aworin aei
eight times	aworin aoju
nine times	aworin ado
ten times	aworita [aworin + ata]

Kayser (NG72) provides a longer list of distinct forms of the Cardinal Numeral for Classifier 35[23], see Appendix 2.

³⁵ – ‘*aiworiten*’, ‘*it is now once*’ (Example 29).

Cardinal Numerals, as with most classes of words in Nauruan, can take the Perfective Aspect suffix and become verbalized.

The Perfective Aspect suffix always triggers denasalization of a final /n/, i.e. :

‘*aiworin*’, ‘*one time, once*’ + *-en* > *aiworiten*

³⁶ – ‘*bait timor*’, ‘*object for living/thing having to do with life*’ (Example 32).

Regressive Assimilation of final /n/. This is not observed in all circumstances.

³⁷ – ‘*oija aŋen gamar Barnabas*’, then gave Barnabas and me’ (Example 35).

This is an example of an Inclusive Pronoun construction.

To show the participants in an event, English uses two main strategies.

In the one, the participants are joined by the conjunction ‘and’: *Barnabas and me*
or with the preposition ‘with’: *me with Barnaby*

Rather than using coordination (‘and’) or addition (‘with’) Nauruan uses an inclusive strategy, whereby the participants are expressed using the appropriate group pronominal (the total set of participants) followed by the subset of the participant/s, i.e. inclusive pronoun juxtaposed with subset noun phrase.

Example:

gamar [1st Person Dual Exclusive: us two/him and me] [total set of participants] Barnabas
[subset of participants]

³⁸ – ‘*uranget wolf*’, ‘*they are now wolves*’ (Example 44), presumes underlying ‘*urangen* + *iwolf*’.

³⁹ – ‘*emaen*’, Indefinite Pronoun, Classifier 21[4], ‘*ma, mae*’, long stiff object.

Used figuratively for groupings – see NG40.

⁴⁰ – ‘*uranget amen eeow*’, ‘*they are now guides*’ (Example 45).

When the word final *-n* is followed by a vowel sequence [high vowel+low vowel], and the high vowel is weak stress, or the short non-syllabic vowel [ɛ̥] or [i̥], the high vowel is deleted following denasalization, i.e. :

urangen + ɛ̥amen + eeow > uranget amen eeow

Other examples:

pan + ɪow > patow

ōijōn + ɪow > ōijōtow

egen + ɪow > egetow

⁴¹ – ‘*ngaoena wein*’, ‘*that vine plant*’ (Example 49).

‘*ngaoena*’ is the Emphatic form of the Medial Demonstrative for Classifier 27[6], ‘*oe*’, plants, vegetation.

Table 25. Demonstratives for Classifier 27[6], ‘*oe*’, plants, vegetation..

Degree of Proximity	Simple Form	Emphatic <i>nga/ña</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>min</i> Form	Non-Emphatic <i>mu/mũ</i> Form
Proximal	oene	ngaoene/ngoene	minoene	muoene/muene
Medial	oena	ngaoena/ngoena	minoena	muoena/muena
Distal	oen	ngaoeno/ngoeno	minoeno	muoeno/muen

42 – ‘*karakarumen*’, ‘*distribution of two living beings each (by many/of many)*’ Example 74.

When the causitive suffix ‘*ka*’ is added to cardinal numerals, these become distributive in form. The distributive form was originally a verbal form with a meaning approximating to ‘*distribute x-number each*’, ‘*effect a distribution of x-number each*’ and was always prefixed with a dependent pronoun (NG171).

However, the written sources also present the distributive numerals being used outside of a causative verbal phrase; this may reflect the influence of English/German usage introduced by the first missionaries, or a genuine Nauruan development.

Even at the beginning of the 20th century these numerals, apart from low numeral forms, were not widely used, so the information gathered by Kayser in his *Nauru Grammar* and represented here is of a largely historical interest.

Distinct Animate Distributive Numerals are recorded for 2, 3, 4 – all based on the Animate Cardinal Numeral set; the distributive forms for 1 and 5 onwards are based on the General Distributive Numeral set.

Most of the forms listed in Table 26 are attested to either in the 1918 Bible or the 1976 New Testament.

The reduplicated forms seem to be used in the context of ‘distribute X each by many’ or ‘distribute X each to many’ (NG185).

Table 26. Distributive Numeral, General and Animate where these differ (adapted from NG78-80).

Numeral	Form 1	Form 2 (Reduplicated)
1	katon	katakaton
2	karo	karokaro
2 Animate	karumen	karakarumen
3	katiju	katakatiju
3 Animate	katijimen	katakatijumen
4	kataeq	katakataeq
4 Animate	katamen	katakatamen
5	katijimo	katakatijimo
	katimo	katakatimo

6	quaño	quaquaño
7	quaeu quaeiu	quaquaau quaquaui
8	quauju quaoiju	quaquauju quaquaoiju
9	quado	quaquado quadoquado
10	quita	quitaquita
10 Animate	kata	katakata
20	quinarama quurarama	quinuquinarama quuruquurarama
20 Animate	karuma	karakaruma
30	quanimu	quaquanimu quanaquanimu
30 Animate	Katijumu katiyumu	katakatijumu katakatiyumu
40	quama quamma	quaquama quaquamma
50	katima	katakatijima katakatima

⁴³ – ‘aeiyn’, ‘one word’ (Example 88).

‘aeiyin’ is from the Cardinal Numeral set for Classifier 11[7], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation).

The Cardinal Numeral system overtime developed fused forms that incorporate the classifiers. The low numbers 1 to 4 are fully fused. Above four is a hybrid system.

Table 27. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 11[7], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation).

Fused form of cardinal numeral Classifier 11[7], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation)	
1	aeijin
2	areij
3	aeijeij
4	aeiji

Table 28. Cardinal Numeral Classifier 11[7], eiyi, word (in isolation), based on numeral particle ‘aeiyin’.

numeral Classifier 36[23], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation)	
5	aeijitijimo [aeijin + aijimo]
6	aeijin año
7	aeijin aeiu
8	aeijin aoju
9	aeijin ado
10	aeijita [aeijin + ata]

⁴⁴ - ‘aibwetsin’, ‘one long flexible object’ (Example 102).

‘aibwetsin’ is from the Cardinal Numeral set for Classifier 7[18/19], ‘bwetsi/mwetsi’, long flexible objectword.

The Cardinal Numeral system overtime developed fused forms that incorporate the classifiers. The low numbers 1 to 4 are fully fused. Above four is a hybrid system.

Table 29. Fused Forms of Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 7[18/19], ‘bweti/mweti’, long flexible object.

Fused form of cardinal numeral Classifier 7[18/19], ‘bweti/mweti’, long flexible object	
1	aibwetsin/aimwetsin
2	arabweij/aramweij
3	aijubweij/aijumweij
4	abweij/amweij

Table 30. Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 7[18/19], ‘bweti/mwetii’, long flexible object, based on numeral particle ‘abwetin’.

Cardinal Numerals, Classifier 7[18/19], ‘bweti/mwetii’, long flexible object, based on numeral particle ‘abwetin’	
5	abwetitijimo [abwetin + aiyimo] amwetitijimo [amwetin + aiyimo]
6	abwetina ango amwetina ango
7	abwetin aei amwetin aei
8	abwetin aoju amwetin aoju
9	abwetin ado amwetin ado
10	abwetita [abwetin + ata] amwetita [amwetin + ata]

⁴⁵ – ‘amäbuna ran aquona’, ‘the crew of that vessel’ (Example 121).

‘aquona’ appears to be a unique form based on ‘ekwo’, ‘vessel, canoe’. Neither Hambruch nor Kayser mention ‘quo’ as a classifier.

46 – ‘katakateij’, ‘each one a word’ (Example 121).

This is a reduplicated form from the Distributive Numeral set for Classifier 11[7], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation). See Note 42 for background.

Table 31. Fused Forms of Distributive Numeral, Classifier 11[7], ‘eiyi’, word (in isolation)..

Numeral	Form 1	Form 2 (Reduplicated)
1	kateij	katakateij
2	kareij	katakareij
3	katijeij	katakatiijeij
4	kataeij	katakataeij

15. APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Demonstrative Numeral, Classifier 21[4], 'ma, mae', long stiff objects, as found in Kayser's *Nauru Grammar* (NG44):

Category 4: for Lengthy Objects. Stem: mae. \+++/				
naimane	mumane	minimane	mane	this 1 here.
narumae	murumae	minirumae	rumae	these 2 here.
naijimae	mujimae	minijimae	ijimae	these 3 here.
namae	mumae	minamae	amae	these 4 here.
namaetijimee	mumaetijimee	minimaetijimee	maetijimee	these 5 here.
namaetae	mumaetae	minimaetae	maetae	these 10 here.
namaerumae	mumaerumae	minimaerumae	maerumae	these 20 here.
namaetimoe	mumaetimoe	minimaetimoe	maetimoe	these 30 here.
namaetimae	mumaetimae	minimaetimae	maetimae	these 50 here.
namaedumae	mumaedumae	minimaedumae	maedumae	these 90 here.
namaetebuiue	mumaetebuiue	minimaetebuiue	maetebuiue	these 100 here.
namaerobuiue	mumaerobuiue	minimaerobuiue	maerobuiue	these 200 here.
namaetijubuiue	mumaetijubuiue	minimaetijubuiue	maetijubuiue	these 300 here.
namaetimoueroe	mumaetimoueroe	minimaetimoueroe	maetimoueroe	these 500 here.
namaetijimoueroe	mumaetijimoueroe	minimaetijimoueroe	maetijimoueroe	these 500 here.

Appendix 2.

Cardinal Numeral, Classifier 35[23], 'wori', number of times, as found in Kayser's *Nauru Grammar* (NG72):

Categ. 23. Stem: wori		
aworin		1
aruwori		2
aijuwori		3
awori		4
aworiti jineo	, -e	5
aworita	, -e	10
aworiruma	, -e	20
aworitimo	, -e	30
aworitima	, -e	50
aworiduma	, -e	90
aworitebu	, -i	100
aworirobu	, -i	200
aworitijibu	, -i	300
aworitimouero		500

16. References.

Ballantyne Keira Gebbie. 2005. Textual Structure and Discourse Prominence in Yapese Narrative. Univ of Hawaii.

Bibel: ñaran aen Gott ñarana Testament Ōbwe me Testament Etsimeduw ōañan. 1918. American Bible Society (Philip A. Delaporte, Timothy Detudame, Jacob Aroi et al.)

Blust, Robert. 2013. The Austronesian languages. Australian National University ebook
Chung, Je-Soon. Orthography Paper for Mekeo Language in Central Province of Papua New Guinea. SIL. 1995. /s/ insertion

Commonwealth of Australia. 1941. Report to the Council of the League of Nations on the Administration of Nauru during the year 1940.

Commonwealth of Australia. 1934. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics Bulletin No.7

Commonwealth of Australia. 1949. Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru. Commonwealth of Australia

Dryer, Matthew S. 2007. Clause Types in Language Typology and Syntactic Description. Volume 1. Clause Structure. Cambridge University Press.

Ekegen Ngea Gott Tengeiy Atsin Turita? 1997. Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Franjeh, Michael J. 2012. Possessive Classifiers in North Ambrym, a Language of Vanuatu: Explorations in Semantic Classification. Thesis, The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Hall, Nancy. 2011. Vowel Epenthesis in The Blackwell Companion to Phonology, Vol. III

Hambruch, Paul. 1914. Ergebnisse Der Südsee-Expedition 1908-1910: II. Ethnographie: B. Mikronesien, Band 1: Nauru, 1 Halbband. Hamburg: L. Friederichsen & Co.

Hambruch, Paul. 1915. Ergebnisse Der Südsee-Expedition 1908-1910: II. Ethnographie: B. Mikronesien, Band 1: Nauru, 2 Halbband. Hamburg: L. Friederichsen & Co.

Hambruch, Paul. 1914. Die Sprache von Nauru (Verwaltungsbezirk der Marshallinseln). L. Friederichsen & Co., Hamburg

- Hough, David A. 1974. Summary of Nauruan Phonology. University of Hawaii
- Hughes, Kevin. 2020. The Synchronic and Diachronic Phonology of Nauruan: Towards a Definitive Classification of an Understudied Micronesian Language. The City University of New York.
- Itô, Junko. 1989. A prosodic theory of epenthesis. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* volume 7, pages 217–259.
- Johnson, Lisa M. 2002. Nauruan Classifiers: MA Thesis Brigham Young University, Dept of Linguistics
- Jones, Alan A. 1998. Towards a lexicogrammar of Mekeo. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics
- Kayser, Alois. 1915A. Buch it Dedaro. Mission Katholik, Nauru
- Kayser, Alois. 1915B. Nuwawit testament obuä me Nuwawit testament etimeduw - Biblische Geschichte von Dr. J. Schuster, von Kayser ins Nauruische übersetzt. Westfälische Vereinsdruckerei, Münster.
- Kayser, Aloys. 1936. Nauru Grammar. (edited by Karl HM Rensch 1993, published by the Embassy of the FR of Germany in Nauru) Kayser, Alois. 1936; also issued by Nauru Administration in 1937 as *A Nauruan Grammar*.
- Kayser, Alois. 1976. Nuwawit Testament Etimeduw. Catholic Mission Republic of Nauru. Bar-le-Duc, Meuse, France: Imprimerie Saint-Paul, 1976
- Kuteva Tania; Aarts, Bas; Popova, Gergana; Abbi Anvita. 2019. The grammar of 'non-realization, in *Studies in Language* (December 2019).
- Lee, Kee-Dong. 1975. Kusaiean Reference Grammar (p 252-253). University Press of Hawaii.
- Lichtenberk, Frantisek. 2008. A Grammar of Toqabaqita Vol. 2 (p 934). Mouton de Gruyter
- Martínez-Gil, Fernando. Genonant intrusion in heterosyllabic consonant-liquid clusters in Old Spanish and Old French: An Optimality theoretical account in *A Romance Perspective on Language Knowledge and Use - Selected papers from the 31st Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL)*, Chicago, 19–22 April 2001, eds. Rafael Núñez-Cedeño, Luis López, Richard Cameron. 2003.
- Morely, Rebecca. 2017. Consonant Epenthesis. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/> (Accessed 19/01/2023)
- Munro, Ron, and Lauti, Alamanda. 2021. The Forgotten Korean Labourers on Nauru. *Royal Asiatic Society Korea, Transactions* Vol. 95 pages 90-110
- Nathan, Geoffrey S. 1973.1. A Grammatical Sketch of Nauruan. University of Hawaii.

Nathan, Geoffrey S. 1973.2. Nauruan in the Austronesian Language Family. *Oceanic Linguistics* 12:479-501

Nauru Congregational Church 1887 – 1987.1987. Council for World Mission.

Nauru Parliament Hansard

Nauru 2007 Demographic and Health, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea 2009

Pacific Islands Monthly Vol. 1, No. 5 (Dec. 16, 1930), p 9

Pacific Islands Monthly Vol. 11, No. 4 (Nov. 15, 1940), p 21

Pacific Islands Monthly Vol. 35, No. 8 (Aug. 1, 1964), p 59

Petit-Skinner, Solange. 1979. *Les Pêcheurs de Nauru*. Thèse d'État en Ethnologie, Université René Descartes, Paris

Rehg, Kenneth L. 1981. *Ponapean reference grammar*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press

Rensch, Karl H.M. 1993. Father Alois Kayser and the recent history of the Nauruan language, in *Nauru Grammar* by Alois Kayser MSC, edited by Karl H.M. Rensch (p I – XIII). Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, ACT, Australia

Roddy, Kevin M. 2007. *A Sketch Grammar of Satawalese*. Thesis, University of Hawai'i

Ross, Malcolm. 1988. *Proto-Oceanic and the Austronesian languages of Western Melanesia*. Series C-98. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics

Smith, Carlota S. 2003. *Modes of Discourse: The Local Structure of Texts*. Cambridge

Tanaka, Yuki. 2010. Japanese Atrocities on Nauru during the Pacific War: The murder of Australians, the massacre of lepers and the ethnocide of Nauruans. *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*, Volume 8 Issue 45 Number 2.

The World Atlas of Language Structures Online: Zero Copula for Predicate Nominals, Chapter 120. <https://wals.info/chapter/120> and 120A (Accessed 22 August 2022)

Trussel, Stephen. 1979. *Kiribati (Gilbertese): Grammar Handbook* (p 205). Peace Corps Language Handbook Series.

Wedgwood, Camilla Hildegard. 1935. *Chiefs of Baitsi* (notes obtained from Thomas Cude, Chief of Police). Papers of Camilla Wedgwood, National Library of Australia

Wedgwood, Camilla Hildegard. 1935. *Nauru Detudamo* 17.II.35. (Notes obtained from Timothy Detudamo, Head Chief of Nauru) Papers of Camilla Wedgwood, National Library of Australia

Wedgwood, Camilla Hildegard. 1936. Report on research work in Nauru Island, Central Pacific. Part 1: in Oceania Vol 6 No 4 (June 1936) p 371

Wilson, Heather. 2008. Subject Positions in Marshallese (p 69-70). University of California Dissertation.

Wozna Beata and Wilson Theresa. 2005. Seimat Grammar Essentials. Data Papers on Papua New Guinea Languages Volume 48. SIL Ukarumpa PNG